Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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FBIS-SOV-95-222 *17 November 1995*

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Key Developments

FBIS Duma Election Report 14 Nov

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[FBIS Media Note] ***This is the ninth in a weekly series of reports FBIS will produce on the campaign for the 17 December Russian Duma elections. It is based solely on Russian media reporting.***

Recent Developments

Constitutional Court To Rule on Election Threshold Russia's Supreme Court and Duma deputies have submitted appeals asking the Constitutional Court to rule on the constitutionality of the provision in the Duma Election Law that allows only parties that receive over 5 percent of the total vote to take part in the distribution of the 225 federal seats that will be determined by proportional representation. The Supreme Court's appeal, submitted on 10 November, asserted that the provision "runs counter to the constitutional right of citizens to be involved in government through elected representatives" (ITAR-TASS, 10 November).

Duma deputies Vyacheslav Nikonov (Ivan Rybkin's Bloc) and Irina Khakamada (Common Cause), who have proposed amending the law to abolish the threshold, submitted an additional appeal to the court on 13 November, arguing that the provision "will prevent the formation of a representative Duma" (INTERFAX, 13 November). Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin, who favors abolishing the threshold, announced that the Duma has "put on hold" all proposals to amend the election law until after the court's ruling (NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, 11 November) (see "FBIS Duma Election Report 7 Nov" for an earlier report on these proposals).

Leaders of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF) and the Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) denounced the Supreme Court's appeal.

- LDPR leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy called it a "plot to foil the elections" by "those who are clearly losing and do not know which straw to cling to" (INTERFAX, 10 November).
- Deputy Duma Speaker and CPRF member Gennadiy Seleznev said that if the threshold is abolished, the "legitimacy of the current deputy corps," elected according to this provision, "might be called into question" (INTERFAX, 10 November).

Constitutional Court Chairman Vladimir Tumanov said on 13 November that the court will rule on the case "in the very near future" (ITAR-TASS, 13 November). Tumanov's announcement contradicted an ITAR-TASS report on 10 November that said the court's ruling "might be voiced after the elections." The Federal Law on the Constitutional Court requires that a judge on the court carry out a preliminary study before a case is heard. The judge must complete the study within two months, after which the court has an additional month to hear the case (ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, 23 July 1994).

Lottery Determines Parties' Places on Ballot As the result of a lottery conducted by the Central Electoral Commission [TsIK] on 10 November (INTERFAX, ITAR-TASS, 10 November), the 42 parties registered for the election as of that date will appear on the ballot in the following order (IZVESTIYA, 14 November):

1) Women of Russia; 2) Derzhava; 3) Duma '96; 4) Transformation of the Fatherland; 5) Tikhonov-Tupolev-Tikhonov Bloc; 6) Russian Pan-National Movement; 7) "NUR" Muslim Movement; 8) Federal-Democratic Movement; 9) Bloc in Defense of Women, Children, and Invalids; 10) Inter-Ethnic Union; 11) Stable Russia; 12) Landmark Generation; 13) My Fatherland; 14) For the Motherland!; 15) Common Cause; 16) Independents' Bloc; **17) Russia Is Our Home (NDR);** 18) Pamfilova-Gurov-Vladimir Lysenko Bloc; **19) Yabloko;** 20) Forward, Russia!; 21) "89" Bloc; 22) Kedr; **23) Democratic Choice of Russia—United Democrats;** 24) Party of Russian Unity and Accord (PRES); **25) Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF);** 26) Stanislav Govorukhin's Bloc; 27) Association of Russia's Lawyers; 28) National-Republican Party of Russia; 29) Social-Democrats; 30) Power to the People!; **31) Congress of Russian Communities (KRO);** 32) Trade Unions and Industrialists of Russia—Union of Labor; **33) Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR);** 34) Bloc in Defense of Pensioners and Veterans; 35) party of Workers' Self-Government; 36) Communists—Working Russia—For the Soviet Union; 37) Beer Lovers' Party; **38) Ivan Rybkin's Bloc;** 39) Party of Economic Freedom; 40) People's Union; **41) Agrarian Party of Russia (APR);** 42) Christian-Democratic Union—Christians of Russia.

PRAVDA (14 November) reported that Women of Russia leader Alevtina Fedulova said that she was not just "satisfied" but "overjoyed" after her party drew the number one slot; Derzhava's representatives "embraced each other in joy" after drawing the number two position; a CPRF representative said "it would have been better" to have drawn "number 15"—Common Cause's slot—instead of the number 25 slot it drew; and Svyatoslav Fedorov's Party of Workers' Self-Government drew the "easy to remember" number 35 slot. The paper also asserted that other "big associations" such as KRO, APR, and LDPR that drew high numbers were "unlucky."

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Political pundits differ over the significance of parties' and blocs' placement on the ballot. Dmitriy Olshanskiy, the director of the Center for Strategic Analysis and Forecasting, asserted on independent NTV's "Versions" program (13 November) that the "ranking" on the ballot will be "crucial" in determining many parties' and blocs' chances for getting into the Duma. presidential aide Georgiy Satarov, however, challenged Olshanskiy's assertion on the same program, claiming that the ballot order will play "only a minor role" because "people are too mature to vote for just the first names on the ballot paper."

Communists Lead Countrywide Polls The CPRF topped a poll conducted by the Russian Independent Institute of Social and Ethnic Problems among 2,200 respondents in "key economic regions" during October. The party was favored by 19 percent of all respondents, followed by the NDR (11.2 percent), Yabloko (10.3 percent), the KRO (6.6 percent), Party of Workers' Self-Government (5.4 percent), and the APR (5 percent). According to institute director Mikhail Gorshkov, these parties "have retained their positions since the end of the summer" although the KRO has picked up some additional supporters "over the last two months" (INTERFAX, 11 November).

The CPRF also continued to lead polls carried out by the "Public Opinion" fund. Out of all respondents expressing an opinion in the fund's countrywide poll in "mid-October," 25.5 percent said that they would vote for the CPRF if the election were held today, up from 18 percent in the fund's poll at "the beginning of September." The NDR and Women of Russia were tied for second with 11.8 percent of respondents expressing a preference, up slightly for the NDR and down slightly for Women of Russia from their September performance. Yabloko came in fourth with 9.8 percent (10.9 percent in September), followed by five parties with 5.9 percent—the LDPR (9.1 percent in September), the APR (5.5 percent), Russia's Democratic Choice (7.3 percent), Party of Workers' Self-Government (5.5 percent), the KRO (3.6 percent). Derzhava received 2 percent in October and September (OGONEK, No. 45, November).

Fedorov Proposes Democratic Coalition Forward, Russia! leader Boris Fedorov has proposed the formation of a "democratic coalition cabinet" after the elections "to consolidate the anti-extremist democratic forces, which have so far been divided." He put forward three possible candidates for prime minister in such a coalition—Sverdlovsk Oblast Governor Eduard Rossel, Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, or Nizhegorod Oblast Governor Boris Nemtsov. He also suggested that Grigoriy Yavlinskiy could be minister of finance, Boris Gromov defense minister, and Ivan Rybkin foreign minister. During an NTV interview that aired on 8 November, correspondent Yevgeniy Kiselev said that Fedorov has offered his coalition proposal to Yabloko, Russia's Democratic Choice, Russia Is Our Home, My Fatherland, the Bloc of Ivan Rybkin, the Union of Labor and Industrialists, and a "number of other" parties. Federov said that "Yeltsin's aides" have "welcomed" his proposal, as did Stanislav Shatalin, a leader of My Fatherland, and that "the leaders of yet another 12 parties" will respond "shortly" (INTERFAX, 10 November).

Zhirinovskiy Claims KRO Offered Him a Bribe MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS (11 November) reported that LDPR leader Zhirinovskiy "announced" during a recent Duma session that the KRO offered him a $100,000 "bribe" to "withdraw" an LDPR candidate in an unspecified single-seat district. The KRO's press center denied the allegation, calling it an "absolute lie" and countered that Zhirinovskiy overestimates the "market value" of his "organization."

In the Provinces

Due to the shutdown, we are unable to produce this section.

The Media Beat

ORT Scuttles Plan To Hold Debates Public Russian Television (ORT) announced on 14 November that the channel's plan to broadcast debates and roundtable discussions during the free air time allotted to parties and blocs in place of the "talking heads" format used during the 1993 Duma elections has been shelved after the "majority" of the parties and blocs "turned down the offer." The channel's leadership added, however, that "should participants request debates during the campaign," ORT "stands ready to assist." All registered parties and blocs will be given free and equal access to one hour of air time on state-owned television channels from 15 November through 15 December. Earlier, ORT General Director Sergey Blagovolin told ITAR-TASS (9 November) that ORT will broadcast a 30 minute program each morning and evening Monday through Friday during the one month period noted above and paid advertising will be "limited" to six minutes per day.

Before ORT announced that it would abandon the new format, KOMMERSANT-DAILY (9 November) alleged that ORT's decision to drop the "talking heads" format was designed to prevent a repeat of 1993 when "inexperienced" viewers became "immediately imbued" with the ideas of charismatic LDPR leader Zhirinovskiy. According to KOMMERSANT-DAILY, "from the point of view" of the "designers" of the new format—the

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VID production company, the "talking heads" format "seriously tainted" the channel's image two years ago as "many" viewers "simply turned off the "box" after seeing "yet another political statue."

Registered Parties and Blocs and Their Top Candidates

Official candidate lists for the following parties and blocs registered by the TsIK were published in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA from 25 October-2 November (ORT's 1 November "Vremya" newscast reported that the paper would halt publication of party and candidate lists as of 3 November because of the "enormous costs" involved; no lists have been published since 2 November). Each entry below lists the party's 12 core federal list candidates in order and gives the date when the list was published.

Communist Party of the Russian Federation [Kommunisticheskaya partiya Rossiyskoy Federatsii] Gennadiy Zyuganov, Svetlana Goryacheva, Amangeldy Tuleyev, Valentin Chikin, Yuriy Maslyukov, Valentin Kuptsov, Anatoliy Ionov, Valeriy Tarasov, Yuriy Ivanov, Aleksey Podberezkin, Nikolay Savelyev, Valeriy Vorotnikov. (Federal list published 25 October).

Congress of Russian Communities [Kongress russkikh obshchin] Yuriy Skokov, Aleksandr Lebed, Sergey Glazyev, Lyudmila Vartazarova, Dmitriy Rogozin, Yuriy Kalmykov, Vasiliy Romanov, Mikhail Kolchev, Oleg Denisov, Tatyana Malyutina, Sergey Goncharov, Sergey Burkov. (Federal list published 25 October).

Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia [Liberalno-demokraticheskaya partiya Rossii] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, Sergey Abeltsev, Aleksandr Vengerovskiy, Stanislav Zhebrovskiy, Aleksey Mitrofanov, Mikhail Gutseriyev, Mikhail Monastyrskiy, Mikhail Musatov, Vladimir Gusev, Nataliya Narycheva, Oleg Finko, Sergey Kalashnikov. (Federal list published 26 October).

Women of Russia [Zhenshchiny Rossii] Alevtina Fedulova, Yekaterina Lakhova, Galina Klimantova, Marina Dobrovolskaya, Fanuza Arslanova, Irina Vybornova, Antonina Zhilina, Lyudmila Zavadskaya, Natalya Malakhatkina, Svetlana Orlova, Galina parshentseva, Yelena Chepurnykh. (Federal list published 28 October).

Agrarian Party of Russia [Agrarnaya partiya Rossii] Mikhail Lapshin, Aleksandr Nazarchuk, Vasiliy Starodubtsev, Aleksandr Davydov, Aleksandr Zaveryukha, Vladimir Akatyev, Aleksandr Belashov, Nikolay Sukhoy, Anatoliy Vorontsov, Andrey Popov, Mikhail Trunov, Vladimir Isakov. (Federal list published 28 October).

Russia Is Our Home [Nash dom—Rossiya] Viktor Chernomyrdin, Nikita Mikhalkov, Lev Rokhlin, Sergey Belyayev, Daniya Karimova, Zhores Alferov, Galina Volchek, Nikolay Travkin, Vladimir Kinelev, Vladimir Bashmachnikov, Aleksandr Martynov, Vladimir Ryzhkov. (Federal list published 31 October).

Trade Unions and Industrialists of Russia—Union of Labor [Profsoyuzy i promyshlenniki Rossii—Soyuz Truda] Vladimir Shcherbakov, Mikhail Shmakov, Arkadiy Volskiy, Valeriy Trapeznikov, Dmitriy Lukashenko, Aleksandr Neumyvakin, Valeriy Nosov, Yuriy Sakharnov, Anatoliy Denisov, Vadim Zhimirov, Igor Yurgens, Valeriy Bagin. (Federal list published 1 November).

Ivan Rybkin's Bloc [Blok Ivana Rybkina] Ivan Rybkin, Yuriy Petrov, Artur Chilingarov, Vyacheslav Nikonov, Aleksandra Ochirova, Aleksandr Sergeyev, Vyacheslav Lashchevskiy, Valeriy Kirpichnikov, Sergey Rodionov, Sergey Trakhirov, Igor Shichanin, Pavel Borodin. (Federal list published 2 November).

Beer Lovers' Party [Partiya lyubitelyey piva] Konstantin Kalachev, Dmitriy Shestakov, Andrey Palchevskiy, Andrey Kunitsyn, Yuriy Pripachkin, Aleksandr Levchenko, Aleksandr Shuvayev, Vyacheslav Krusser, Yuriy Milyukov, Nikolay Vlasov, Maksim Listovskiy, Andrey Artyushkov. (Federal list published 2 November).

List of Single-Seat Electoral Districts

The list of the 225 single-seat districts for the 17 December elections was published in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA (22 August) and ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI (24 August). It lists each district's name and number; the total number of voters; the district's center; and other cities, towns, and rayons in the district.

Election Schedule—Key Dates

15 November-15 December: All registered parties and blocs are granted equal and free access to air time on state-owned television and radio channels and may purchase additional airtime. State-owned television channels will broadcast the free campaign advertising Mondays through Fridays primarily in 30-minute blocs.

'Elections '95' Program Features Party Leaders

Chernomyrdin on 'Russia Is Our Home'

LD1611234495 St. Petersburg Fifth Channel Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 16 Nov 95

[Interview with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, leader of Russia Is Our Home, by correspon-

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dent Aleksandr Druz on 16 November; place not given; from the "Elections '95" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The all-Russia social and political movement Russia Is Our Home opens our program.

[Aleksandr Druz] [passage omitted] Today I was given the rare opportunity to put difficult questions to the captain of the Russia Is Our Home team. [video shows Chernomyrdin, Druz seated opposite each other at a round table] Viktor Stepanovich, can those who are going with you to the elections be called a unified team?

[Chernomyrdin] Yes, of course, first of all, I place my main stake upon the team. On the whole, I am a team player and I think that in any matter a reliable team, reliable people, comrades-in-arms, people devoted to the cause are needed if anything is to be done, if anything is to be achieved, if results are to be had. I think that there will always be results in that case. As far as Russia Is Our Home, our social and political movement is concerned, I think that quite a good team has been formed now, a team which is capable of resolving issues. Who is the team made up of? It is made up, first of all, of professionals, of respected people, of people who know what has to be done, who are responsible for their actions, for their words, for their intentions, who know what they want and what they are being called upon to do, how to work and where to lead our country. That inspires me greatly and I am pinning great hopes upon my team. I am pinning great hopes upon my people who are with me. [passage omitted: unidentified voice names others on Russia Is Our Home list, gives biography of Chernomyrdin, Nikita Mikhaylkov, Lieutenant General Lev Rokhlin, over still of each and on-screen biographical details]

[Chernomyrdin] I can continue with other names: There is [Vladimir] Kinelev [chairman, State Committee for Higher Education]; Sergey Belyayev [chairman, State Committee for the Management of State Property], whom I have known well from the start — he is well qualified; Nikolay Il'ich Travkin [ex-leader, Democratic Party of Russia] — he is head of a district administration today, and essentially he is at the source of the movement. All of these people have their own fate, but they are all united by one thing — by what we want to do, by our movement, Russia Is Our Home. I can even name collectives that belong to that movement: There are industrial enterprises, industrial associations, the Union of Pensioners, the Union of Officers. These are the organizations, these are the people who want to do things for Russia, who want to achieve results.

[Druz] [passage omitted] On which social strata are you counting on, in the first instance?

[Chernomyrdin] You know, I would not like to single anyone out or to offend anyone. On the whole, I am relying on my people. I am relying on common sense in our affairs. I am convinced of this, first of all; I am convinced of this. I would like our people to turn out to vote in the elections; therefore, I can say once again that I am relying, first of all, on common sense. I think that our veterans and our pensioners will turn out to vote.

I am relying very much on young people. I would very much like young people to turn out to vote in the elections. We are deciding today not only present-day issues. We are deciding today not only present-day problems. We are essentially laying down much of what we should do in the future and that means for young people, for youth, for those who are to lead their lives and to make decisions. So why should we decide these questions today without them, without their participation? I am convinced that they will turn out to vote in the elections and will make the right choice.

I do not mean that Russia Is Our Home is victory through and through — nothing of the sort! Once again, I am just hoping that common sense will prevail today. I am simply convinced of this.

[Druz] What is the main difference between your team and its rivals?

[Chernomyrdin] First of all, I have to say that the difference lies, first of all, in the fact that we are a team that does not simply say we will do something, that we will achieve something. Our team is a team of professionals. It is a team that is working, which is doing a great deal today. All these non-successes and successes — they may be small, but they are positive — are being achieved by our team today.

We should do everything to create the conditions for work, for industry, for the defense complex, for agriculture. We should create the conditions for work, for the normal work of any person in our country, no matter where they are.

I have to say to you that achievements of the past should not be slandered today. The foundations of much of what we are doing today were laid decades ago in the times of the old Union, of the Union state. All that is best in that must be taken, must be taken as our basis.

We should create normal market relations, normal civilized conditions as enjoyed by the whole world. No more from victory to victory! This is what we want. And, of course, that is difficult. Yes, of course, I can say that not everything turns out as it should. There are mistakes. Many mistakes have already been made. But we should not just talk about the mistakes — we must put them right. We should work, but so far, there is

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just a lot of noise. So far there is more of a hindrance. There are not very many people today who want to sit down beside us and pull that load. There are only a few people who want to do so. So far there are only a lot of people who want to shout. Just look — they are all after power! But what do they want? Are they able to do that? Do they understand how that should be done? Do they understand what lies behind that? Once again, that is what makes us different from all the rest. [passage omitted]

[Druz] Every team of experts has its favorite question and its least favorite question. What is the most difficult question for your team?

[Chernomyrdin] The most difficult question for me and I think for our people, for those who are beside me is, of course, how to resolve those vital questions which the country is facing today. Whether we like it or not, I cannot get away from it; I am not avoiding it and there is no getting away from it. I have just come from examining those questions today: How can the problem of non-payments be resolved today? How can the problem of the payment of wages be resolved? Why are there delays in paying wages? That is, the solution of social questions is the most difficult question.

Perhaps I can express my position on that again? There are many factors influencing all of that, but there is one essential thing that everybody, all managers of all ranks must understand: working people, people who work must receive their wages, first of all. Payments must be made and that depends upon us leaders. That problem must be resolved first of all. We will resolve it despite everything. That is the most difficult question and one cannot say of it: I will solve it or I have solved it. That problem, essentially, is not being solved today in many sectors of the economy. That is, for me at least, the main question and it cannot simply be a topic of discussion.

[Druz] Viktor Stepanovich, three last questions that have become a tradition are "What? Where? When?" Well, it seems that you have answered what it is that concerns you most. We have just spoken of that. The second question is: Where, in your opinion, does the dividing line lie between honest and dishonest politicians?

[Chernomyrdin] First of all, I think that we do not have the right to promise something and then not do it; I consider that to be dishonest. It is even more dishonest to promise something when you do not know how to do it. It is dishonest to mislead your people. That is what I think and I would say that was almost verging on a crime.

We already have results. We already know the opinion of politicians who have promised us a great deal, in fact. Maybe we should ask some of them what has become of their promises? Two years have gone by since our first elections to the State Duma. But what has been done? A great deal was promised. Who prevented them from achieving anything. A politician should not behave like that. But of course, I think that [words indistinct] but I am very much against people being mislead.

[Druz] And finally the last question. When, in what circumstances will the victory of Russia Is Our Home in the elections be an absolute reality?

[Chernomyrdin] When people turn out to vote in the elections. That is how I see it. I very much want our slogan, our traditional slogan of "Everybody out to vote!" to become a reality. If people turn out and vote — and I can say once again that our people understand the situation and will understand it, and they can distinguish between who wants to and who can — I am convinced that common sense will win.

[Druz] Thank you very much Viktor Stepanovich. I will not take it upon myself to judge how correct were the answers to the questions I asked today. In any event, the reply to the question: Who am I in favor of?, Who will I personally vote for on the day of the elections? is clear. But you still have 31 days to think it over, esteemed television viewers! Time's up!

Zhirinovskiy on Liberal Democratic Party

LD1611201895 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1605 GMT 16 Nov 95

[Address by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, in the ORT studio; from the "Election '95" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Good evening, esteemed citizens of Russia! I am addressing you as the leader of the party that received the majority of votes two years ago. You hoped we would be able to fulfill our program, but you were cheated. You could not find our candidates in the second ballot paper, because a party affiliation was not mentioned. It will be easier this time. This time you will know who is in the first ballot paper: our number is 33. All our supporters will find Number 33 in the first ballot paper and put a plus against it for the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia].

In the second ballot paper you will also need to find the LDPR candidate, since the second ballot paper will have the party affiliation against the name of each candidate. Only the party that receives the majority of votes will be able to implement its program. If again there are 10

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parties with 30 deputies each, we will not be able to do anything and you will continue saying: The deputies are bad and the parliament is bad.

Why is the LDPR taking part in the elections again this time? It is the only opposition party. All those who are going to address you are either government ministers, like the Communists who have one minister, or the Agrarians who have two, or Russia's Choice — all of them have government ministers, either in the center or in the provinces — or Potemkin-style false new blocs that have invited the generals who lost all the wars or actors who will remind the older generation of good old films and thus attract voters by deceit.

The LDPR is deceiving no one. The LDPR was the first party on the Russian political scene. Do you remember 1990? What was the first party to hold its congress? Ours. The others were afraid; they were hiding in fear they would be arrested. They were thinking: What if this is a mistake and the Communists are still in power? We were the first to embark on the political arena.

Do you remember the presidential elections? What party took part in the election for the first Russian president? Only the LDPR did. I was the only candidate from the LDPR who participated in the elections and came third, leaving behind generals and governors.

Finally, August 1991, a small new civil war. Who supported the SCSE [State Committee for State of Emergency] program which is still topical today? There were only three points there: to stop the disintegration of the state and the economy, and to stop a flare-up in crime. The same applies today: The disintegration of Russia must be stopped, the disintegration of the Russian economy, and a flare-up in Russian crime must be stopped. So we were right to support the SCSE, weren't we? And all the courts acquitted them. And who released them from prison? For the first time in the history of our Fatherland, a nationwide political amnesty was announced. All parliamentary factions were against it, but on 23 February, from the parliament's rostrum, I persuaded the majority of deputies to vote for it and the doors of all prisons were opened wide. I even released my enemies, because freedom and democracy are the most precious things.

Do you remember the events in October 1993? What happened then? Yet another civil war. Yet again Russian against Russian. Yet again thousands were killed at this pathetic White House, our former Supreme Soviet. We have still not been told the whole truth. Who took the right position? The LDPR did. We supported no one. Of course, those who gave the orders to shell the parliament are to blame. It is an unthinkable thing in history to shell one's own parliament with one's own weapons. Those who were at the Supreme Soviet, it was they who dug their own grave, it was they who approved the criminal agreements signed in Belovezhskaya Pushcha, which divided the country into 15 states.

Do you remember the Caucasus? We are here now and war is blazing there. Who started it? Those who are in power today. The [Yegor] Gaydar government, Marshal [Yevgeniy] Shaposhnikov, and all those who are continuing it now. It was they who created this regime; they armed it and now they are throwing your sons, 18-year-old boys, into this hell. They are killing them there to gain political capital. Yesterday it was the LDPR parliamentary faction, it was our faction, that made parliament adopt amendments so all your sons will return home when their period of active service ends under the old law, that is after a year-and-a-half. So dear parents, thanks to the LDPR, the parliament did its job and you will have your sons back.

Our party is the only party that has been and remains an opposition party. During this month of democracy — this is going to last for one month only and will come to an end on 17 December — and they will be lying to you about the LDPR and about me. Why? Because, apart from the LDPR and myself, they are not afraid of anyone. They are perfectly aware of the fact that today's Communist Party of the Russian Federation is not the Bolsheviks of 1917 and today's Russia's Choice is not the Mensheviks of 1917; although in principle, all new parties are practically fragments of the old CPSU [Communist Party of the Soviet Union] which, using various excuses and slogans, yet again are trying to achieve one thing: to seize power and nothing else. They do not need Russia. They need to enter the Kremlin and for this they will destroy Russia, to be in the Kremlin.

Therefore the LDPR has been and remains an opposition party. We promise that our program will remain the same: not one person hungry, not one unemployed, not one homeless. All this can be achieved if the LDPR receives the majority of votes. We are being hindered in parliament: We have only 12 percent of votes and they have turned down our program. We proposed to stop providing aid to everyone. We proposed to change our foreign and domestic policies, but we were prevented from doing so.

Vote for us, support the LDPR. Our number is 33 and here is our telephone number. [video shows phone number] I can assure you that after 17 December you will receive an honest and clean ruling party. I am the only one who has never been a CPSU member. I have never betrayed you and I have never supported any of the democrats.

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Lakhova on 'Women of Russia'

LD1611175195

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 0630 GMT on 16 November 95 carries the Election-95 program which features the Women of Russia movement. The program lasts 7 minutes.

The program starts with a commercial showing a woman throwing some rubbish from an upper floor balcony into the path of several men in suits below. She is then shown standing on the balcony cleaning a banner saying "Everyone to the elections".

The video switches to black and white footage of women in various roles: playing with children, greeting partners, smiling at the camera, working, getting married, etc.. A song extolling Russian women is superimposed over it.

The camera then shows Yekaterina Lakhova, captioned as leader of the faction of the Women of Russia political movement. She says:

"Who are we? Mothers and wives, sisters, and grandmothers. And we are suffering acutely and feeling the pain of the reforms which are being implemented. Poverty and destitution are mass phenomena in Russia today. The Women of Russia faction is working in the State Duma and with all the laws, insisting on the rights of all Russians to labor, to free education and healthcare, to increases in their salaries, pensions, and children's allowances. We are against the privatization of schools, hospitals and kindergartens. We are against crime, corruption, and the war in Chechnya. The women of Russia understand and support the revival of the rural regions of Russia. The individual, the family, peace in Russia — these are the main values which Women of Russia proclaim."

Video footage of Lakhova and other women taking part in debates in parliament and official meetings and visits is then shown, voiced-over with the same song about the women of Russia which was played earlier. This ends with a still black and white picture of a field, with a colored picture of a sunflower and the words "Women of Russia" and "Russia's Chance" superimposed.

Video switches to a continuation of the advertisement played at the beginning of the report. Men in suits walk along a pavement littered with rubbish, look up to see a woman standing on a balcony cleaning a window, a long shot shows a banner stretched across the balcony, saying: "Everyone vote at the elections".

An excerpt from the Moscow Russian TV in Russian "Vesti" news program from 10 November 1995 is shown, featuring a member of the Women of Russia faction taking part in the draw for election airtime.

The program switches back to the picture of the field, sunflower, and "Women of Russia", "Russia's Chance" logo and the Russian women song.

Kulik on Lapshin's Agrarian Party

LD1611232495 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1605 GMT 16 Nov 95

[Studio interview with Gennadiy Vasilyevich Kulik of the Agrarian Party of Russia by unidentified correspondent; from the "Elections '95" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] To conclude our evening election broadcast, here is Gennadiy Vasilyevich Kulik for the Agrarian Party of Russia. Good evening, Gennadiy Vasilyevich. [passage omitted] What do you think the harvest will be like?

[Kulik] You know, we greatly hope for support and a good turnout from our association, our party. First, because the Agrarian Party now brings together, see, the entire agricultural and related industrial sector. With us also are the consumer cooperative societies, which engage in trade and essentially provide the countryside with everything it needs. With us is the Committee of Veterans. Trade Unions are in our association.

[Correspondent] Agricultural trade unions?

[Kulik] Not only agricultural. There is also the medical workers' union, and others. Our association includes the Russian Agrarian Union, which brings together not only primary producers but all organizations that process agricultural produce.

[Correspondent] So you have plenty of supporters?

[Kulik] That is right. I wanted to say something else. You know, we feel very confident. But I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to another group, to the rural professionals, the doctors and teachers. This is how we understand the situation today: This country cannot have a strong rural healthcare system without a strong rural foundation, there cannot be good education in the countryside without a strong rural foundation. So we hope that this part of our electorate, this part of society, will support us, because rural areas are now in decline. To put it bluntly, healthcare has collapsed in the countryside and village schools are being closed. This is a single, national, problem.

[Correspondent] But this is a never-ending quest. For many years, we have been told that there should be a...[pauses] Who exactly is the countryside?

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[Kulik] I want to say that the Agrarian Party's manifesto talks clearly about variety of forms of ownership. We are absolutely and firmly for equality for all forms of economic activity. I would say this: Our enemies like from time to time to artificially play one form of ownership against another. But we support private farming [fermerstvo]. I am proud to say that I was with the private farming movement from the very beginning. Not because I am on television now, but because I believe in variety of forms of economic activity. [passage omitted]

We support state-sector enterprises, such as pedigree breeders and seed producers, which are essential. We support the cooperatives. Our party's position is that we are for variety in the way that all forms of ownership are supported, with economic and legal and other equality. We, and this is very important, want the farmer to choose for himself what to do. Lord Almighty help us if the Kremlin or the Duma were to start saying, come on, this is how you do it.

[Correspondent] It is all very well to say he can choose for himself, but how if he has no opportunities, no money, and no loan finance?

[Kulik] You are quite right. You have also touched on the second part of this problem. Having proclaimed numerous forms of ownership and talking about support, we have to create what I would call an economic mechanism to give the hard-working private and state-sector agricultural worker the chance to earn a decent living. This is the main issue in the countryside today. [passage omitted]

Incidentally, we have high hopes that urban voters will also support us. We are very much in favor of developing allotment and market-garden farming. Do you know what has happened over the past few years? Forty-four million families now have allotments like these. Someone has started a rumor that the Agrarians are supposedly preparing a new land law to take these allotments away. It is nonsense. This is just a provocation that someone wants to use for election purposes. Our position is set out in the draft land code, which undergoes its second reading on Friday or Wednesday [17 and 23 November]. Our position is that our citizens can privately, I stress privately, own land for their gardens, allotments, their houses or dachas, or for garages, or for small businesses. They can do what they will with that land.

Let me say once again that our policy program is built on support for various forms of organization of production.

[Correspondent] Gennadiy Vasilyevich, thank you for taking part in our program. We look forward to seeing you again.

[Kulik] Is that it? Our time is up already? [passage omitted]

Fedorov on 'Forward, Russia!

LD1611182395 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0525 GMT 16 Nov 95

[Speech in studio by Boris Fedorov of the Forward, Russia! movement; from the "Elections '95" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear friends, greetings on behalf of the Forward, Russia! movement. Our country is in one of its worst crises. It could be said that we have been living in squalor and without hope for the future for decades now. For how much longer will this go on? How much must we endure and what do we have to do to change the situation?

On the one hand it is clear that there are traitors to democracy who do not want the elections to take place, who want to deprive you of the right to choose, who only want to stay in power at any cost.

Others want to go back, want to go back to the past, which is impossible. What are we to do? What will happen in this situation?

I do not believe that we are doomed to such a life. Our movement is a movement of optimists. We will oppose everyone who messes around with the people. We will oppose everyone who tells lies.

Who are we? We are conservatives because we believe that we need a strong state, that the thief should be in prison, and that the unity and indivisibility of the state are sacred concepts.

We are reformers because we definitely do need change to make Russia completely different, to make life better.

We are certainly patriots because it is every decent person's sacred duty to love their motherland.

We are certainly patriots in the sense that democracy is rule by the people, order and legality, and nobody has invented a better system.

The Forward, Russia! movement supports rigid order and legality against the lawless free-for-all. We need authentic freedom, freedom from danger, freedom from the fear to let our children onto the streets, freedom from need. Real freedom is first of all civic liberty but also a sense of patriotism and statehood, as the great [Petr]

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Stolypin [Russian prime minister 1906-1911] said in his day. Those are the values that the Forward, Russia! movement supports. The country cannot live without trust, without hope, without hope for a better future, without a conscience and order.

Who are our opponents? Certainly they are people of [Communist Party of the Russian Federation leader Gennadiy] Zyuganov's sort — people who live in a strange world and hark back to an imagined bright past, which holds no future for us. They are people of [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] leader Vladimir] Zhirinovskiy's or [Derzhava leader Aleksandr] Rutskoy's sort who constantly lie and who, essentially make a laughing-stock out of Russia. They are people like [Prime Minister Viktor] Chernomyrdin who mark time, who for years are unable to take the measures that are necessary.

What do we think of the other parties? Well one could cooperate very well with the Agrarians [Mikhail Lapshin's Agrarian Party of Russia] provided one does not entrust them with the management of agriculture. One could cooperate with people of [former Soviet Prime Minister and leader of Power to the People! bloc Nikolay] Ryzhkov's sort if one did not feel so sorry for them. As for [Grigoriy Yavlinskiy's] Yabloko movement, well, we all like apples, especially if they are not green [Yabloko means apple in Russian].

I think that people are in such a state today that they do not believe in the future. Too much has been promised. I have never promised anything I did not do. Any person who knows how I worked in the government knows this very well. Despite the whole sea of lies and abuse directed toward us and toward me personally, we will tell scum that they are scum, liars that they are liars, incompetent people that they are incompetent.

The thing that singles us out from among all the parties and movements is the specific nature of our program. We are not afraid to name specific deadlines, specific measures, specific action we plan to take. I think that is the proof that our program is truly realistic.

What do we intend to do after winning and forming our government? One thing is certain: Instead of meaningless and empty talk about compensating investors, we will simply mark a specific sum of money in the budget in order to get the process started today and not tomorrow when these pensioners are no longer alive. We will carry out a pension reform so that people no longer have to wait for pittances from the authorities, for them to raise or compensate some part of their pensions, so that they get them like normal people because pensions are earned by people.

We will carry out a tax reform that will enable enterprises to pause for breath. We will end the shame of Russia's communal apartments. We are one of the few states in the world to still have them. We will get authentic reforms started in the countryside. By making a realistic budget we can get the defense order paid on time and not a year or two later, we can make sure that spending on education and health do not depend on the mood of the day among the deputies of the State Duma.

Instead of talking about fighting inflation we will simply halt it. There should not be as many zeros on our money as there are today. We give you our guarantee that we will remove these zeros, that our money will be hard, that the ruble will be a real ruble.

Instead of a report about the latest 40 gun attacks on Russian troops in Chechnya you will get a report about the latest hundreds of fighters disarmed and neutralized. I think it is time to put the country in order.

Nobody will serve longer in the Army than the term they are called up to do. The Army will become combat-ready and professional and proud.

People like [State Duma deputy and disgraced MMM investment company head Sergey] Mavrodi should, in our opinion, be in prison and not appearing on television screens and setting up parties because no one must be allowed to cheat people.

We will sell state dachas and use the proceeds to begin a program to build housing for those on low incomes because if we do not settle accounts with that past, with the inheritance of the past, then there will be nothing good in our life.

We will defend the family as the basis of our society and we will fight against that immorality and filth, which are today pouring in here from every direction.

Finally, we will make a person in our country feel that they are in their motherland so that the Russian flag flies over Kazan and Groznyy.

Vote for the Forward, Russia! movement. Our number is 20. Our symbol is a smiling hedgehog but his prickles are very sharp.

Incidentally, at 1930 [1630 GMT] this evening I will be speaking to you again and I hope that Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin will come along. I have invited him to that meeting. I think it will be very hard for him to refuse. He and I will together read the book about the achievements of the Chernomyrdin government that I have written and which consists of nothing but empty pages, and if he can put anything at all on one of those pages it will give me pleasure

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to share the royalties from the publication of the book with him.

We are neither left-wing nor right-wing — we are just like you. I think that everyone should be concerned about their own fate and turn out for the elections. Forward, Russia! No more marking time!

Kalachev, Kravchenko on 'Beer Lovers'

LD1611165295 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0630 GMT 15 Nov 95

[Studio interview with Konstantin Kalachev, secretary general of the Beer Lovers' Party, and Dmitriy Kravchenko by an unidentified correspondent; from the "Elections '95" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] We have representatives of the Beer Lovers' Party in our studio now, also in line with an instruction from the Central Electoral Commission. They are the Party's Secretary General Konstantin Kalachev and the Secretary of the Novosibirsk, correct me if I am wrong, Regional Committee of the Beer Lovers' Party Dmitriy Kravchenko. I have a simple question for you. The Beer Lovers' Party has always stood out among other parties. It was a kind of a caricature of our political life. Have you lost your uniqueness? Are you following everyone else into politics?

[Kalachev] Not at all. Our party is a party of improvization. It was set up on impulse. [passage omitted] We are a party of improvization and remain such. Unlike all those who love power, money and privileges, we are not taking part in the elections for the sake of power. Our aim is not to grab but to change. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] You say in your program that you dislike power but you are heading in that direction. Have you come to like power? Why are you after it?

[Kalachev] Power is repulsive like the hands of a beard-shaver. The point is that any authorities in Russia, no matter what party is in power, will be bureaucratic today. We see our party as a kind of pike which lives to keep the fat carp in power on its toes. In other words, while in the State Duma we would like to follow up any actions of those in power, any actions of the legislative and executive authorities to see if they correspondent to common sense and the interests of normal people. We do not want to be a ruling party. We cannot be a ruling party at present but would like to hold a constructive position. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What specific things should be done in Russia urgently?

[Kalachev] These specific things include, first and foremost, the fight against organized crime, corruption, bureaucracy and the improvement of the life of those who cannot take care of themselves. As a former teacher, I think that we should, first and foremost, take care of those living on a single income, those who are financed from the budget, like teachers and doctors, and all those who really work. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What about Novosibirsk? Is the Beer Lovers' Party popular there?

[Kravchenko] Yes, of course. But Konstantin knows more about this. I would like to remind those who will be casting their votes that our party is listed in the election list under number 37. [passage omitted]

Grishchenko, Gorlov on 'Stable Russia'

LD1611132095

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian at 0525 GMT on 16 November as part of its "Elections '95" series moderated by Georgiy Kiznetsov carries a 5-minute program on the Stable Russia Public Political Movement.

Aleksandr Gorlov, spokesman for the Stable Russia Public Political Movement, is introduced and thanks the public for their support in the signature-collecting campaign.

Gorlov explains what the movement means by the term Stable Russia: "The word stable in our title means that before starting moving upward we first have at least to stabilize things, to preserve what we have. Our economic and our political programs are devoted to this. The economic program, which has been developed by Vladimir Grishchenko, is coming up now. Tonight Elina Bystritskaya and Oleg Petrov will talk about our political program, which our voters have to know, which people of like mind have to know."

Kuznetsov asks what Gorlov wants to do with the army, pointing out that he is a major-general in the reserve. Gorlov explains: "First and foremost I want to preserve our army. I am offering two programs in our movement — a program for the North, a program for the development of the North, the Far East, and Siberia — I am very familiar with these, I have been working on this program for four and a half years — and the army program. I want to preserve both as our country's national wealth."

"Could one say therefore that you are an opponent of radical reforms in the army?" Kuznetsov asks.

Gorlov replies: "Certainly. I am an opponent of the word reform itself. At the moment, we can only talk about

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the survival of the army and stabilization of the current situation. Once that is achieved, then we can implement reforms, but these have to be well-prepared, of course. That is because any reform means suffering for officers, for their families, for their children. It means depriving them of the opportunity of living normal, dignified lives when they have served for more than 20 years protecting the frontiers of our motherland."

Speaking on economic policy, Stable Russia spokesman Vladimir Grishchenko says: "This is the path we have chosen to follow, not the path of promising our electorate that we will index-link pensions, raise the pay of teachers and doctors, but the path of saying to them how are we going to set up an economic mechanism, an economic policy, which will get us out of this and enable reforms to be implemented in the army and provide for the North and our budget?. Well, first of all, our main distinguishing feature is that we, like a number of other movements, believe that it is not impossible to tighten up any further, to squeeze inflation any further. Why?

"Because our primitive monetarists believe that the less money we have in our economy the more goods our economy will produce. Time has shown that this is not so. One other very important thing is that we have reached the conclusion that the market prices we have now are a curved mirror showing our economy in a distorted, weakened form. Earlier, we criticized planned prices for being divorced from real life, but current market prices are even more divorced from real life because they fail to take account of our industrial capacity, our intellectual potential, even our land. We are wearing things out, we are using everything up, we are even using up our productive resources."

Grishchenko continues by outlining his proposals: "We are proposing first and foremost changing the single ruble exchange rate we have at the moment, the tying of our ruble and therefore all prices to the dollar. We are proposing the introduction of, first, one exchange rate for industrial goods and a completely different exchange rate for investment products. This will enable us to satisfy our producers and exporters while also preventing us having to sell off our assets for a song in the current conditions."

He continues: "The main backbone is our own resources, not the raw materials sector — that will only add to our economy — but our own intellectual, scientific, and cultural abilities. We believe in our people, we believe that great industrial capacity has been established over this period [as heard] and the time has now come to act, not to squander everything in vain.

"In these conditions, I would like to emphasise that in crisis conditions, in conditions of harsh demands from the IMF being made of our government, in these conditions it is particularly important that we make correct use of the limited resources and potential that remain to us. Therefore the state's role in the economy must definitely be increased. We want to build a stable Russia with a normal state system which will regulate the economy. In our conditions this is essential to mobilize all our resources to get us out of crisis."

Talking about the movement's program for the north of Russia, Grishchenko says: "I have just returned from a tour of the Murmansk Region. We visited the remotest places which used to be called hard labor exile locations to see how the people of the north are living. First and foremost we wanted — and we did this — to consult with them on the program we had put forward for development of the north. In general, we reached the conclusion that our program, which was developed with the involvement of northerners, is right. It needs a little adjustment, but the purpose of it is clear.

"The north today is the cesspool of Russia, even though all our national wealth, the vast bulk of it, is concentrated there. Nature has endowed our country with enormous natural resources which are concentrated in the north. The most important thing there which cannot be over-estimated or covered in a few words is the human potential. Fine people live there who are capable of reviving Russia. They say to us that they do not need help, they need not to be hindered. And the words not to be hindered are indeed in our program for the development of state policy on the north and on the problems which have accumulated there. This means first and foremost creating a ministry for northern affairs, primarily the setting up of a state program."

Rumyantsev on Stanislav Govorukhin Bloc

LD1611190395

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 0630 GMT on 16 November broadcasts the "Elections '95" program with a seven-minute election platform by Oleg Rumyantsev for the Stanislav Govorukhin Bloc. He outlines the movement's crime policy.

He says: "The Stanislav Govorukhin Bloc certainly has got drive. We are calling upon our fellow citizens to join with us and stop the criminal revolution. We cannot deal with individual issues — adopting a criminal code and criminal proceedings legislation, eradicating the causes of economic crime, punishing those who organize or take part in criminal communities and mafia leaders — unless we deal with the main issue, if we do not get away from this criminal regime that the country has slid into over recent years.

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"It will be very difficult to do this. Like Zheglov/Vysotskiy, a hero from a Govorukhin film, 'Rendezvous not to be Changed,' we say: A criminal should be in jail and will be in jail, but he should and will be in jail if we can put an end to the dictatorship and rule of the brazen criminal minority that has been allowed to spread. How are we going to do this?

"First and foremost we hope, dear voters, that you will vote for the representatives of a sensible, wise opposition that includes the Stanislav Govorukhin bloc. In the 1993 elections the ruling minority won just 17 percent of the vote. It is our task to restore democracy as the rule of the majority. What needs to be done to get the country out of the regime it is stuck in? We believe that we must pool our efforts with our allies in opposition and call a constitutional assembly.

"Today it is painful and shameful to see how each of us every morning waits to see what the top authority, the top ruler, will come up with: Will he be conducting an orchestra or carrying out an undistinguished and bloody operation in the Caucasus, handing over Crimea and the Black Sea Fleet or handing over the Kurils, firing on parliament, or falling victim to some kind of illness? We are none of us insured and, unfortunately, petty tyranny and despotism have been rubber-stamped by the present Constitution. T[illegible]eans that the task of the constitutional assembly, the sole task, has to be: First, a review of the form of rule we have today in Russia, restoring reasonable accountability of the authorities to the people. That is the first task. The second is to stop the curse of the illegitimacy of power.

"After the 1993 coup d'etat neither this authority nor this Constitution will ever be respected, everyone knows what they cost. So the second task of the constitutional assembly, as the constituent authority, is to establish a just rule in Russia and put an end to the period of transition.

"The third task of the constitutional assembly is to determine the political and legal form of our union, the Russian Union. I am deeply convinced that authorized delegations from the republics of the former (Soviet) Union and parts of the former Union republics will take part in the work of Russia's constitutional assembly and that together we will carry out the stated will of the citizens on 17 March 1991 for the preservation of a renewed Union.

"That is what drives us. This proposal has taken more than one year to mature among the politicians in the Stanislav Govorukhin Bloc, it has developed over the past few years, it is well thought through in terms of Federal and constitutional law, but the most important things is that no amount of laws or knowledge is going to break through this wall of chaos and arbitrariness if the political will is not there.

"Politicians in the Stanislav Govorukhin Bloc have the most important thing, have the political will, but they also have the knowledge and our most important trump card, the moral trump card — honesty in politics, an honesty in politics of which we are proud.

"I think that this period will only come to an end when we have not only convened a constitutional assembly but have also reviewed the rules of the game, ending this game without rules. If we also unite the forces in society to stop them breaking the spiritual backbone of the nation. The Stanislav Govorukhin bloc includes educated people and we consider ourselves mobilized, called to do everything we can to turn back the state, its dying science, culture, education, and training, the honest Russian producer, the honest entrepreneur. We have all these in our country. I am convinced of that.

"I have just got back from southern Dagestan. We have not yet lost a sense of ourselves as one nation all the way from Dagestan to the Kurils, and it is our task, the one which we are presenting to you, first to stop the criminal revolution and second not to allow the spiritual backbone of the nation to be broken.

Rumyantsev continues: "I would like to conclude my address by saying that we will be appearing only in our free air time because the Stanislav Govorukhin Bloc does not want money taken from the people to be spent on senseless costs imposed by the radio and television companies for paid air time. We will next be meeting you on 27 November at 1840 (1540 GMT). Thank you for your attention."

Rossel on 'Transformation' Bloc

LD1611213995

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1540 GMT on 16 November 95 carries on the "Elections '95" program a recorded interview with Eduard Ergartovich Rossel, leader of the Transformation of the Fatherland bloc, by Irina Lapina in the Moscow studio on 15 November. The interview lasts 7 minutes. He answers questions about himself and his bloc's election platform. He says his movement grew up in the regions — in Sverdlovsk — as a continuation of the Transformation of the Urals movement, and he was elected the first governor of the region and of Russia. "We have won the support of 54 of Russia's Regions," he says. "The purport of this movement lies in the fact that we have no intention in our movement of being like all the others who say that 'we want to win power and get into parliament.' We don't need this power. We want to get into the Duma so that our

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deputies from the regions can get in and ensure that those laws which are needed for the development of the regions are adopted, for the economic independence and political independence of the regions. These are the tasks of those deputies who will be entering our Duma, and not any kind of political game." This will give Russia a "human face and all the regions will be equal, all the rights of the people of all the components of the federation will be made even and not as is the case today — republics have one set of rights, the territories another, the regions another, and so on and so forth".

Rossel goes on to say that, unlike other blocs, his movement makes no promises, it merely wants to make all the components of the federation equal and for their scientific and practical potential to be utilized evenly.

Asked if he would in the future use his experience as governor and head of the legislative assembly to reconcile the legislative and executive powers who constantly seem to be fighting one another, Rossel said that while he was governor in Sverdlovsk he had excellent relations with the legislative assembly, and as far as his bloc is concerned, the legislative body supports them.

Spokesman on Gromov's 'My Fatherland'

LD1611215295

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1540 GMT on 16 November broadcasts the "Elections '95" program with a seven and a half minute election platform by Stanislav Assekritov, member of the political council of the "My Fatherland" electoral association. He begins his talk by saying that his association is headed by a "national hero" Colonel General Boris Vsevolodovich Gromov, and his team contains a broad range of people who are men of action rather than words. Among the other top people in the movement are Academician Stanislav Shatalin, the country's main economist and founder of the famous '500 Days' program, the well-known singer Yosif Kamzon, political scientist Angranik Migranyan, Viktor Mishin, who devoted his life to the Lenin Komsomol, and Nikolay Shmelev, academician and writer. Video clips of all these people are shown.

Shmelev says the country is living on the principle of plugging the holes of current problems and there are no serious state economic plans. "I absolutely hate this whole privatization business. Whatever anyone says, what is happening is a repulsive share-out of state property between the directors and bureaucrats, the people have again been taken for a ride and are being cheated. I am not calling here for turning everything back, but I am asking for the state to show some commonsense and for the interests of the people to be observed."

The program concludes with Kamzon singing a patriotic song.

Yavlinskiy Answers Mayak Listeners' Questions

LD1611223795

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1930 on 15 November in place of the news bulletin carries a live phone-in question-and-answer election feature with Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, the Yabloko bloc leader, hosted by Yuliy Semenov. Yavlinskiy is the first in the draw for this pre-election slot hosted by Mayak lasting 30 minutes. Semenov invites listeners to phone-in their questions to Yavlinskiy, giving the telephone number 217-4593 in Moscow.

Yavlinskiy thanks Mayak for the opportunity to allow him to talk to the people of the country on air and answer some of their questions. "Mayak seems to have found the best way of doing this: by putting it in a question and answer format." "30 minutes is a serious period of time, it is not the six and a-half minutes that I had this morning on television when one has no time to say anything at all."

"This is a very important moment in our life. Its importance lies in the fact that we have to re-elect everything in the next nine months. We should elect a new president, we should create a new parliament and form a new government". "Our citizens are fully aware of the importance of this because in Russia today, with a Constitution which gives such powers to the president, the election of a president practically means election of a tsar. This is election of a man who will have enormous influence on what is to happen in our country. Election of a tsar in Russia is the thing which people take very seriously indeed. I should like to stress that the citizens in our country have a very precise understanding of all these issues. They put the practical question of the Duma elections into the context of presidential election because they understand perfectly well that if there is no majority in the Duma to support the future president, there is bound to be confrontation between the Duma and the executive power, i.e. the president, and we can again expect the usual tug-of-war instead of promoting policies vitally important for our country."

"I support the power of law. I want everybody in Russia — the president and all other individuals to observe the law. There used to be a slogan: All power to the soviets! What I would like to say today is: All power to the law. We need a president who is not just able to write these laws or propose them, but who will be able to ensure

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that the law is observed, firmly — not brutally, strongly — but not by resorting to bloodshed." "Some of the economic tasks we have to solve will be, first of all, stopping the price hikes and paying wages and pensions strictly on time."

To one of the listeners' questions on social protection for servicemen, Yavlinskiy replies: "The problem of social protection for servicemen is not a problem without solution. This is not so much a question of money as a question of political will. In two years of the present Russian parliament, neither the prime minister nor the commander-in-chief of the Russian Armed Forces spoke in the parliament with proposals or views on what is going on in the Army today. Not a single budget was adopted during this time with an aim to solve these problems. The fundamental question of solving the problems of social protection for servicemen was never raised by either the supreme commander or prime minister or even the minister of defense on their behalf." "An army officer's place in the society and his social status should be such that any man who becomes a Russian officer will be proud of his position and so should all his relatives. The Army today is reduced to a desperate state in this respect. On top of that, the Army has been humiliated in Chechnya by being put in an extremely hard situation and subsequently blamed for all the failures in the Chechen events."

"I have to say that there are several absolutely fundamental questions we in Russia have to face. One is how are we to live after the Belovezhskaya Pushcha of 1991 [disintegration of Soviet Union]. The second is what are we to do after the first stage of privatization is over — the way it was conducted — and how are we to pull ourselves out of this fine mess. And the third one is what are we to do to make sure that there isn't another putsch or coup, in which people are killed, and that there are no more wars, ever."

Asked whether he will run for president, Yavlinskiy said: "Yes, I will. And I hope to win the presidential election. I want the new generation to come to power in Russia, the generation that is not bound by old traditions and old mentality. The generation that will make our country free and safe and its citizens can live decently."

To a question whether he is a member of a masonic lodge, Yavlinskiy answers: "No. I do not belong to any masonic lodge."

On the question of Chechnya, Yavlinskiy says: "Under present conditions, the problem of Chechnya can only be solved by a new leadership which has not been involved in this adventure. When we have a new leadership in the country, it can conduct negotiations in such a way as to ensure first of all safety for Russian citizens in Chechnya. Russia has to ensure complete safety of every Russian citizen. This has to be an absolutely firm and imperative move, the most important one. Not the restoration of Chechnya, but protection of the citizens. And only after that, talks on all other issues. On the whole, Chechnya is our disgrace. We have to stop this disgrace as soon as possible. All the same, it will leave a long-lasting wound in Russia's body."

Yavlinskiy ended by wishing his listeners all the best.

Election Guidelines

Borovoy Accuses RTV of Violating Election Law

LD1711145195 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1300 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Konstantin Borovoy, the chairman of the Economic Freedom Party, has complained to the Supreme Court about the Russian Public Television Network [RTV]. He accuses RTV Director Blagovolin of crudely violating the law on elections to the State Duma. The essence of the violation is that on 15 November, the party's advertising video containing a short ditty of Kostya Borovoy was removed from second place in the draw to fourth place.

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ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 17 Nov

LD1711074795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0730 GMT 17 Nov 95

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW November 17 (ITAR-TASS) — IZVESTIYA on the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Russia.

"The old Russia is still strong enough to overpower the young Russia" is the headline under which the newspaper carries the findings of the latest survey of the electorate sentiments. The survey was carried out by specialists at the All-Russia Public Opinion Study Centre.

The newspaper recalls the Russian President's forecast about an expected outcome of the elections to the State Duma, due to be held in December this year: the Communists are believed to poll not more than 10 per cent of the vote while the Chernomyrdin-headed bloc — 20 per cent. The sociollogical surveys point to the contrary rather, the newspaper emphasises. The "party of power", rather, is likely to lose to the Communists, points out the newspaper and gives detailed figures to corroborate the conclusion.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on the Federation Council's fixing a Presidential election date.

"Up to now, the authorities have acted within the law provisions as far as elections are concerned, and one should get a accustomed to this," the newspaper comments on the fixing of the Presidential election date — June 16 — by the Federation Council "fully in conformity with the Presidential Election Law".

The newspaper's commentator complained about unnamed "dark forces" that heighten tension in society through unfounded talk about a possible transfer of the election date.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on destabilisation predictions:

"The Presidential election date has been fixed. The Constitution works. Let us not frighten one another with predictions of an ostensibly impending destabilisation."

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on Central Bank chief nomination hearings in the State Duma on Friday.

Sergey Dubinin, who has been suggested by the Russian President for the post of the Central Bank chief is to be introduced to the State Duma on Friday.

In the opinion of the newspaper, the candidate can well have his nomination confirmed. The newspaper believes that, if Dubinin's nomination is confirmed, the Central Bank and the government "will follow a common path and the policy orientation will remain unchanged".

KRASANAYA ZVEZDA on Defence Minister's press conference.

The newspaper runs a detailed account of Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev's press conference, during which the Minister remarked on the development of the Armed Forces cooperation, arms cuts, and the observance of international treaties and obligations.

IZVESTIYA on the negative environmental impact of three arsenal blasts.

The newspaper describes the aftermath of three blasts of the arsenals of Russia's Pacific fleet and the 5th Army of the Far Eastern Military District (in 1992, 1994 and 1995) which had an adverse effect on ecology of Primorye (Maritime Territory)

The newspaper gives data which show that children, who live in the area affected by the arsenal blasts have grown bald as a result of massive thallium contamination. Meanwhile, routine destruction of remaining ammunitition of army depots through blasting is conducted in Primorye twice a week.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA on measures to keep up science.

"We have worked out a large package of measures aimed at ensuring the survival of science, and presented it to the government for consideration," Gennadiy Zagaynov, General Director of the Association of State-run scientific centres, has told the newspaper's news analyst in an interview headlined "Brain drain can be reversed".

IZVESTIYA on the smuggling of the new-born out of Moldavia.

The newspaper gives the details of the notorious case involving the covert sale and smuggling of the newborn out of Moldavia. The legislation of the republic does not provide for punishment for trade in people, the newspaper pointed out. Therefore, traders may be penalised only for tax evasion, the writer of the article observes.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA on the smuggling of babies out of Ukraine.

Over the past two years alone, more than 800 children were smuggled out of Ukraine, Igor Pilipchuk, Head of a regional department of the Ukrainian Interior Ministry's Main Directorate for combating organised crime, has told the newspaper. He is in charge of the investigation of a case involving the sale of Ukrainian babies abroad. He said staff members of the Cabinet of ministers,

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Parliament members and staff members of Presidential structures are implicated in the case.

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Arms Reduction Figures Submitted to CFE Treaty Group

LD1711120995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1037 GMT 17 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 17 Nov — Russia has declared that it has met the overall quantitative levels specified by the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (the CFE Treaty). This information was submitted both on paper and by electronic mail to the CFE joint consultative group in Vienna, Lt-Gen Vyacheslav Romanov, head of the Atomic Facility Nuclear Safety Inspectorate, told ITAR-TASS.

According to the CFE Treaty, Russia is allowed to keep 6,400 tanks, 11,480 armored vehicles, 6,415 artillery systems, 3,450 aircraft, and 890 combat helicopters on its European territory.

Romanov explained that according to the CFE Treaty all participant states should exchange initial data by 17 November. The data will then be analyzed by experts. At the same time, inspection groups should check and confirm within 120 days from the CFE Treaty implementation dateline (17 November) that the participant states have met the final quantitative levels of conventional weapons in Europe.

Inspection groups from the United States and Belgium to monitor the final levels of conventional armaments reductions are already working in Russia. A group from Great Britain is also concluding its check on observation of the dates for the elimination of armored equipment at facilities in the North Caucasus and Leningrad Military Districts. Italian experts have carried out a check on the reduction of strike helicopters in Totsk. So far, no complaints have been made to the Russian side on the results of the checks, the department carrying out inspections to monitor implementation of the CFE Treaty told ITAR-TASS. For its part, a Russian inspection group was working in Turkey from 13 to 16 November.

The problem regarding fulfillment of the CFE Treaty conditions on the flanks remains. Russian military officials and diplomats are continuing consultations with the member-states of the Treaty for the purpose of changing the areas for flank restrictions on its southern and northern borders.

Moscow Calls For Amendment to Treaty

LD1611172795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1551 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 16 (Interfax) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev hopes that Russia's concerns will be considered and the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty will be brought in line with today's realities, he told Interfax after a meeting with his Polish counterpart in Moscow Thursday.

Yesterday Defense Minister Pavel Grachev stated that Russia will not be able to comply with its flank obligations by November 17, as envisioned by the treaty, due to financial and other reasons.

Kozyrev said Russia's amendments to the CFE flank limitations are being discussed on a multilateral basis in Vienna and bilaterally with the United states in Brussels. "I hope these discussions will proceed in a spirit of cooperation," he added.

According to Kozyrev, "the way out is to multiply the commitment to the CFE treaty by the understanding of new realities which emerged in Europe after the break-up of the former Soviet Union."

"The required formula should necessarily consider the interests of Russia and a number of other states (former Soviet republics — IF note)," he concluded.

Kozyrev, Polish Foreign Minister Discuss NATO

LD1611191995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1817 GMT 16 Nov 95

[By Valeriy Sevryukov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 16 (Itar-Tass) — "The researches prepared by NATO on the expansion of this bloc contain more questions than answers. In these conditions it would be more than strange to make hasty steps," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said today after the end of his talks with his Polish counterpart Wladyslaw Bartoszewski.

The Russian minister urged "first to think how the situation will be developing and how a model of a single and comprehensive security system in Europe will be formed, and then make decisions on any specific steps," he noted.

In the Russian minister's view, an additional impetus to the joint search for an all-European model could be given by a meeting of foreign ministers of the member countries of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) scheduled for early December in Budapest.

Speaking on the position of Warsaw on NATO, the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry noted with satisfaction that "the Polish side is not in a hurry in the settlement of this issue."

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He supported Sladyslaw Bartoszewski's proposal to arrange a round table discussion on this theme with the participation of researchers of the two countries.

"Let us give analysts and the best minds the possibility to find an optimal decision before taking any hasty actions on the NATO expansion," Andrey Kozyrev emphasized.

The head of the Polish delegation backed up this viewpoint saying that he had come to Moscow "not to persuade Russia to join NATO or try to talk Moscow out of it."

"Poland is not a NATO member and therefore is not authorised to conduct talks on behalf of this alliance. Neither Poland is interested in expounding any NATO ideas," Wladyslaw Bartoszewski said.

"It is no secret that Poland must become a member of some security system which will be formed as a result of reconstructing NATO," the Polish minister continued.

However, this system must be "deeper and enlarged." Warsaw "cannot imagine a future security system without agreements between NATO and Russia and Ukraine," he pointed out.

The two ministers also discussed the course of the implementation of the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty. Andrey Kozyrev said intensive consultations on this theme were being carried out in Vienna with Russia's participation, including on a bilateral basis, foe instance, with the United States.

He expressed the hope that "this dialogue will be finished in the same spirit as it is developing now, that is, in the spirit of cooperation and understanding of new realities in Europe, and at the same time, of adherence to the Treaty.

The Russian minister expressed a formula which, in his view, will be able to open the way to "making yet another big step in the direction of strengthening of security, stability, developing confidence building measures and processes of arms limitation in Europe" in May 1966.

According to Andrey Kozyrev, the main points of this formula are the adherence to the implementation of the Treaty on OSCE multiplied by the understanding of realities of the new situation on the continent, as well as the peculiarities of the position of Russia and some other states, and their specific interests.

Russia Backs Enlargement of UN Security Council

LD1611221295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2141 GMT 16 Nov 95

[By Boris Sitnikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] UNITED NATIONS, November 17 (Itar-Tass) — "Russia recognizes the need to enlarge membership of the U.N. Security Council to 20, which would allow to maintain its compactness, which is important from the point of view of its efficiency", Russian representative Yuriy Fedotov said during the General Assembly discussions on the issue of extending the Security Council. Among the main criteria for participating in the Council named by the Russian representative are "the extent of participation by members of the Organization in supporting international peace and security and in achieving other goals, as well as the principle of a just geographical representation".

"It is clear that the present status of permanent members of the Security Council in all the interrelations of their rights and obligations should stay", Fedotov said. He noted that Russia supports a proposal by a number of countries regarding lifting the ban on immediate reelection of an outgoing member of the Council after its completing its term, which is provided for in the U.N. Charter.

Noting positive progress made in the Security Council's work, the Russian representative emphasized that further improvements in methods and procedures of the Security Council's functioning should be carried out stage-by-stage, in a well-balanced way, without any hurry".

Moscow, London Club Agree To Reschedule Debt

LD1611214195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2022 GMT 16 Nov 95

[By Gennadiy Temnenkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BONN, November 16 (Itar-Tass) — Russia and its foreign London Club bank creditors on Thursday [16 November] agreed to reschedule its 25.5 billion dollar debt. The agreement was reached at a Frankfurt meeting between Russian vice-premier Oleg Davydov and foreign banks' representatives.

A joint statement issued by the participants in the talks, received by Tass, said that the agreement envisages the rescheduling of the 25.5 billion dollar debt and additional 7 billion dollars in interest arrears. The parties agreed to reschedule the debt over 25 years including a seven-year grace period.

Under the agreement, Russia is to pay before the end of 1996 1.5 billion dollars to the banks for interest arrears

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accumulated in 1994 and 1995. The remaining sum will be paid in portions during 20 years with a seven-year grace period.

Commenting on the agreement, Davydov called it "an important breakthrough" in Russia's efforts aimed at settling relations with the international banking community. Moreover, it grants Russia a respite to proceed with its economic reform, the vice-premier said.

Kozyrev Sees 'Positive Development' in Bosnia Talks

LD1611194195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1759 GMT 16 Nov 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On the current talks on a settlement in ex-Yugoslavia Kozyrev said they are difficult, but not disappointing. "A positive development is evident," the minister said.

On the upcoming operation to enforce the Bosnian peace agreement Kozyrev said Russia is going to be a key figure in it.

He said it is important to find an optimal form of Russian participation. "Probably we should not be involved in everything. We must weigh our interests and check them against the actual circumstances," Kozyrev said.

The best niche for Russia is a balanced, unbiased approach, the advancement of the political process, not an emphasis on the use of force.

"Probably we should give priority to implementing peace agreements. Why must we go where we will not be at our best? Let us concentrate efforts on political processes, civilian reconstruction," Kozyrev remarked.

In this context the minister described as very rich the idea of a special operation in Bosnia which according to him was put forward during the Yeltsin-Clinton meet in Hyde Park, United States.

Moscow: NATO Must Not Control Peacekeeping

LD1611145095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1425 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 16 (Interfax) — Moscow believes that the operation to ensure implementation of the agreement between conflicting parties in Bosnia must not be controlled by NATO. It must be a multinational operation carried out by the U.N. Security Council mandate, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolay Afanasyevskiy told Interfax Thursday.

The form of decision-making, planning and control must ensure that Russia, as an equitable participant in the future peacekeeping operation, has an adequate vote, he said.

There is no unanimity on the issue in NATO, he announced. "Only the U.S. has assumed a clear-cut position, insisting that the operation be carried out under NATO aegis and that political control over it be exercised by NATO's Security Council," he said.

He pointed out that "this variant naturally suits NATO countries, but absolutely does not suit states which are not NATO members."

Given this, a formula suiting both NATO members and other countries should be found.

He said that ways of financing the peacekeeping operation will depend on the character of the operation and on who will exercise control over it.

"For the moment, the financial aspect is quite ambiguous," said Afanasyevskiy.

Churkin Notes Serbs' Missed 'Victory'

MM1711095695 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Nov 95 p 3

[Article by Leonid Mlechin: "Izetbegovic, Whom the West Supports and Fears"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] "Last year the Serbs had a unique opportunity to end the war in Bosnia on highly advantageous terms for themselves," Vitaliy Churkin, Russian ambassador to Belgium (responsible for all contacts with NATO) told me. Prior to his appointment as ambassador, Vitaliy Churkin, as deputy foreign minister, was in charge of Yugoslav affairs. "The Serbs lost their chance when they did not agree to the Contact Group plan. Now they will not be able to achieve such good terms."

Last year the Bosnian Serbs had a devout faith in their own inevitable victory. So why make peace with someone you could simply conquer? In unofficial conversations, Russian diplomats complained of the shortsightedness and stubbornness of the Bosnian Serb leadership. Now their determination to go all the way is reinforced by fear: If they lose, they might find themselves in the dock of the international war crimes tribunal for former Yugoslavia.

"The roles have now been exchanged," Vitaliy Churkin says. "This time it is the Croats and Muslims who are gambling on military victory, that is to say, they are repeating the Serbs' mistakes."

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The world is keeping a wary eye on Alija Izetbegovic, president of Bosnia-Herzegovina, of whom less is known than of Croatian President Franjo Tudjman or Serbia's Slobodan Milosevic. [passage omitted]

To understand Izetbegovic, it should be borne in mind that in his writings he has called for the "spread of Islam to all aspects of people's life, by means of the revival of Islamic religious thought and the creation of a single Islamic community from Morocco to Indonesia."

And in reflecting on Bosnia's future we should not forget that, in Izetbegovic's opinion, "Islam is entitled to govern its own world autonomously, and therefore it unequivocally rules out the possibility of an alien ideology being implanted on its territory."

In 1989 he proposed the creation of an Islamic party. It is now called the Party of Democratic Action. In May 1990 he became party chairman, and in December he was elected head of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

There was a time when Izetbegovic ruled not a country, but only a besieged city that was cut off from the country. His residence in Sarajevo was a target for Serb artillery.

In May 1992 he was arrested at Sarajevo airport by Serbian officers from the Yugoslav People's Army, who took him to an army barracks and held him there. Izetbegovic cannot forget that humiliation.

Naturally, the reflections of a religious writer will not necessarily be dogma for an acting politician. President Izetbegovic and his Prime Minister Silajdzic are constantly saying that they want to create a secular multinational state in Bosnia. Nonetheless Bosnian Muslims are seen as an outpost of Islamic fundamentalism, which causes Europe to fear the Sarajevo leaders. [passage omitted]

Payments Hinder Gas Supply Shipment to Yugoslavia

LD1611212895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2012 GMT 16 Nov 95

[By Ivan Ivanov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BELGRADE, November 16 (Itar-Tass) — The beginning of Russian gas shipment to Yugoslavia for humanitarian purposes is being held up for the fourth day running. Although the U.N. sanctions committee had at the end of the last week permitted Yugoslavia to import about 370 million cubic meters of natural gas from Russia for central heating of residential housing and communal facilities and production enterprises for foodstuffs and medicines from November 13, 1995 to January 13, 1996, the "damper" is yet to be turned on.

Itar-Tass learned from informed sources in the management of the Yugoslav oil and gas complex, that the main obstacle in the beginning of gas shipments is its mode of payment. Yugoslavia is unable to make payment to the Russian state-owned concern "Gazprom" in freely convertible hard currency, since all its foreign currency accounts are frozen as of May 1992, when the international sanctions were introduced against that country. In Yugoslavia itself hard currency reserves are quite meager, since it had been over the last four years isolated from world trade and is experiencing a sharp economic crisis.

Taking into consideration this situation, the Russian side has fully agreed with the proposal made by Yugoslav premier Radoje Kontic to accept the payment for gas and other fuels against supplies of one million tonnes of wheat and 500 tonnes of maize. However, the U.N. sanctions committee is not giving appropriate permission to Yugoslavia for the export of grain. Instead of this other versions to "defreeze" part of Yugoslav accounts in western banks are being considered, so that funds in them could be used by Yugoslavia to pay for fuel supplies.

It is quite obvious that the United States, which plays the "first fiddle" in the U.N. sanctions committee, strives for not seeing at any cost any new rival in Yugoslavia on the Russian grain market. It wants Yugoslavia to pay for fuels in hard currency, which Russia will later have to spend on purchasing the same grain, but in the United States, The above mentioned source, who wishes not to be identified, told Itar-Tass. He added that in that case Russia will receive much less grain, since transporting it across the Atlantic will cost much more than from Yugoslavia.

Chairman of the U.N. sanctions committee Emilio Cardenas today officially informed Yugoslav prime minister Radoje Kontic that the committee has permitted Yugoslavia to import 186.5 million cubic meters of natural gas from Russia for humanitarian purposes during each month for a period of next two months. Permission has also been granted for importing 28.5 tonnes of black oil and 580 tonnes of condensed gas per month for a period of next six months.

The text of Cardenas's letter, which was circulated by the news agency TANJUG, stated that the committee is ready to consider Yugoslavia's additional requests about gas shipments for humanitarian purposes. It also notes that the committee has on Russia's insistence allowed to pay the cost of gas against supplies of grains from

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Yugoslavia, and has ascertained that the U.N. Security Council is competent to decide this issue.

General Staff Denies Training of PRC Generals

LD1611134795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1244 GMT 16 Nov 95

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 16 (Itar-Tass) — The General Staff of the Russian armed forces denied reports that Chinese generals undergo training in Russia for commanding "landing operations" aimed at coastal areas. These are provocative publications that have nothing to do with reality, Colonel-General Dmitriy Kharchenko, chief of the Main agency of international military cooperatrion of the General staff, told Itar-Tass on Thursday.

A Chinese military delegation was really staying in Moscow on a working visit in October, Kharchenko said. It was lead by Qui Fanghen, chief of the main agency for combat training of the general staff of the Chinese people's liberation army [name and title as received]. The delegation's staying in Moscow and in St. Petersburg and its meetings with the chiefs of the Russian Defence Ministry were not secret. They were held according to plan, in the framework of international cooperation.

During the stay in Moscow the Chinese military delegation studied the system of training officer cardres in Russia and discussed further cooperation in the framework of interstate agreements. Contrary to assertions, the Chinese side did not ask that generals of the Chinese People's liberation army be trained in conducting "large-scale offensive prepations in coastal direction and for strategic landing in insular territories," Kharchenko said. These are false allegations which, in view of the situation in the Asia-Pacific region, can be regarded as provocative, he said.

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Political Issues

Yeltsin Expected To Stay in Hospital Until End of Nov

AU1711082395 Paris AFP in English
0814 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Nov 17 (AFP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who has already spent three weeks in hospital for heart trouble, will probably have to stay in hospital until the end of November, the Kremlin said Friday.

"There is no final decision, but it is the belief of (Yeltsin spokesman Sergey) Medvedev that he has to remain in hospital until the end of the month," a Kremlin spokesman told AFP.

"What Medvedev said is based on the opinion of doctors — that he should complete his medical treatment," the Kremlin spokesman said.

Holds Three Meetings 17 Nov

LD1711083495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0827 GMT 17 Nov 96

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 17 (Itar-Tass) — President Boris Yeltsin, now under treatment at the Central Clinical Hospital, will hold three meetings on Friday: his first assistant Viktor Ilyushin will visit the Russian leader with a traditional morning report.

Then, the president will receive director of the Federal Border Service Andrey Nikolayev and firt vice-premier Anatoliy Chubays, Itar-Tass learnt from presidential press secretary Sergey Medvedev.

The press secretary noted that the Russian chief executive actively works with documents at free time from meetings and pays much attention to reading the press. According to Medvedev, Yeltsin "orders daily virtually all periodicals issued in Moscow".

Medvedev pointed to an opinion expressed by the president's doctors who insist that Yeltsin should "undertake a full course of recuperation after a fit of ischemia".

Referring to statements by doctors, Medvedev noted that the president will evidently stay at the hospital till the end of November.

Yeltsin Approves Measures for Chechen Settlement

LD1611220395 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1741 GMT 16 Nov 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Yeltsin has approved a package of measures aimed at achieving a negotiated settlement in Chechnya and put forward a series of proposals on how to speed up the process, Yeltsin's envoy to Chechnya Oleg Lobov told Interfax.

Emerging after an hour's meeting with Yeltsin on Wednesday, he said agreement was reached that the creation of new jobs must become one of the main ways of achieving a peace settlement there. He said plans were under way to increase the number of new jobs next year by 90,000 by arranging two or three shifts at facilities, now commissioned after postwar reconstruction.

Lobov said he and Yeltsin had also agreed a plan for the development of socially important and labor intensive sectors such as vineries and vegetable growing.

He quoted figures saying crime rates were less in areas with higher employment rate. He put at three the number of districts where unemployment runs above 50%.

Referring to the president's view, Lobov said the creation of new jobs would help bring stability in and halt the exodus of civilians from the republic. Repatriation of refugees began in April, he said putting at over 100,000 the number of refugees returning home in the past two months alone. However, 200,000 others still remain outside Chechnya.

Lobov said the scope of postwar reconstruction has helped towards the repatriation process. About 11,000 houses were rebuilt in rural areas and an estimated 800,000 square meters of housing in the capital Groznyy including many schools, hospitals and other social infrastructures.

Oil output has reached a daily 4,000 tonnes. Oil refining and engineering plants resumed work as did other industrial facilities.

He also spoke of sending a letter together with First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets and Chechen Head of State Doku Zavgayev to the Russian prime minister for allocating 1.5 trillion rubles for next month to help expand the scope of reconstruction work in the republic which would above targets set for December.

On the political front, the envoy said Yeltsin was supportive of the idea of holding general elections to the Russian State Duma in Chechnya together with elections of a republican head of state on December 17.

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"There is certainty that the poll will be held amid a high turnout," Lobov said. He also spoke of Yeltsin's approval of the idea of a wider composition of regional peace talks though "no mention was made of Dudayev's name."

Plans are also under way to include an official of the national security council into the observer commission, the envoy said.

In his view, Moscow and Groznyy should sign an interim agreement on their relations before the December poll followed by a Tatarstan-style deal later.

On the chance of elections to the State Duma, Lobov said the presence of Russian troops and a curfew in Groznyy would not hamper free and fair elections in Chechnya.

He believes the incumbent head of state Doku Zavgayev has good chances of being re-elected though other candidates are not ruled out.

Large Loans for Chechnya Rehabilitation Unlikely

MK1711101195 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 16 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Natalya Gorodetskaya, Petr Zhuravlev: "Boris Yeltsin Receives Ivan Rybkin, Viktor Ilyushin, and Oleg Lobov. Ivan Rybkin's 'Hand Ached All Day After Boris Nikolayevich Shook It'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] The Russian president was receiving visitors throughout yesterday. As usual, Boris Yeltsin discussed current matters with his first aide Viktor Ilyushin. [passage omitted]

Next, Boris Yeltsin received Security Council Secretary Oleg Lobov, with whom he discussed the situation in Chechnya. The head of state stressed that it was necessary to step up the rehabilitation of the ruined economy and pay compensations to those who suffered as soon as possible, INTERFAX reports. The first 150 billion rubles [R] earmarked for this have been already transferred to the Ministry of Social Security's account. The president assigned Mr. Lobov the task to step up work to rebuild the destroyed facilities and suggested that potentials of the other regions be used for that.

In the meantime, the Tuesday [14 November] session of the State Commission on the Rehabilitation of the Economy and the Social Sphere of the Chechen Republic was not all smooth sailing. The sum of R15.8 trillion to be paid from the budget in 1996 to rebuild Chechnya's economy caused no argument. The statement that R4.4 trillion has already been appropriated this year and that "all the funds have reached the republic's executive " was also met with approval. The interest the state agrees to pay the commercial banks for their loans proved to be a stumbling block. The state commission first deputy chairman, Petr Surov, invested with "issuing directives which can enhance commercial banks' interest in extending immediate credits to restructure the national economy" promised guarantees of credit repayment at a 120-percent rate. Deputy Finance Minister Stanislav Korolev, who was present at the conference, stated that this question should be coordinated with the ministry's leadership. Yesterday, First Deputy Finance Minister Vladimir Petrov declared he was not going to act on the commission's directive because the interest rate on commercial banks' credits for the rehabilitation of Chechnya's economy is not supposed to exceed 110 percent a year. Given the present inflation, this percentage is unlikely to induce commercial banks to issue large credits no matter how much they respect and trust the government.

Yeltsin Sends Draft Law on State Defense Order to Duma

MM1711111195 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Nov 95 p 1

["President" column report: "Legislative Initiative"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As a legislative initiative in connection with Point "d" of Article 84 and Part 1 of Article 104 of the Russian Federation Constitution Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has sent to State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin the draft of a federal law "On the State Defense Order."

Our Information: The draft law establishes the general legal and economic principles and the procedure for the formation, distribution, funding, and implementation of the state defense order, and regulates relations in this sphere.

Chernomyrdin Meets Youth Organizations

LD1611211395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1809 GMT 16 Nov 95

[By Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 16 (Itar-Tass) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has met representatives of Russia's youth organizations today.

"Under present conditions, the Russian government will take a more purpose-oriented approach to the solution of problems faced by young people," Chernomyrdin said. "Conditions have been created now to get down to work on these problems. Until recently, the government

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had been resolving the problem "to be or not to be" as regards our country and had been looking for ways to take it out of the turmoil as soon as possible," Chernomyrdin said. "Today, we may say with confidence that we have done it," he stressed.

Chernomyrdin mentioned late payment of students' scholarships, unemployment (young people account for 37 per cent of the unemployed) and housing as the most urgent problems which should be resolved.

He said that he had instructed Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and Chairman of the State Committee for Higher Education Vladimir Kinelev to resolve the problem of high school graduates trained at military subfaculties in the capacity of officers who are drafted into the army as sergeants.

The Prime Minister said that the government had prepared and submitted to the State Duma a draft law on alternative military service. "I am convinced that each Young Russian should be given the right to an alternative military service in accordance with his religious, pacifist or other ideals," Chernomyrdin said. Besides, the government has adopted the necessary resolutions allowing draft postponement for students and post-graduates of high schools, he said.

The government intends to look into a package of resolutions on the construction of apartment blocks for the young people, on social and economic support to newly married young couples, development of recreations centers for children and young people, on providing jobs and developing entrepreneurship among the young people, Chernomyrdin said.

He pointed out that he had ordered the Cabinet to hold a special conference in order to put an end to late payouts of scholarships to students. Chernomyrdin pointed out that he had banned to cut off heat and power supply to educational establishments for overdue debts." Practically, we have put high schools on the same level with the most important strategic facilities," the Prime Minister said.

He pointed out that a resolution was being prepared on transport fare discounts for students of high and secondary schools, adding that corresponding documents would be signed soon.

Commenting on hardships faced by the young people, Chernomyrdin said that apart from high rates of unemployment among the youth, their housing conditions were two times worse than those of an average Russian citizen. Almost half of young families live under conditions which do not meet sanitary norms, he said.

Chernomyrdin cited figures from statistics reports showing that newly married couples account for 60 per cent of overall divorce rate in the country. Another 30 per cent of divorced couples live together for one year only, while the remainder break up their marriage after five years of married life. Apart from poor housing conditions, Chernomyrdin noted that around 70 per cent of young couples live below the poverty line.

"Russia has gone through an initial stage of market transformations. The first signs of stabilization in industry and finance have appeared. This has prompted us to draw close attention to the solution of social problems," the Prime Minister said.

Discusses Military Service for Graduates

LD1611201295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1551 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 16 (Interfax) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin asked the Defense Ministry to amend the rules on military service for university graduates, he told a group of students in the government building Thursday.

If a graduate studied at a military faculty in his university, he will be able to choose between a term of two years in an officer's rank or one year as a private, Chernomyrdin said. After a year, the privates will be promoted to officers and demobilized.

Chernomyrdin said university students will enjoy a whole system of delays from military service. The State Duma will consider a draft law on alternative military service in the near future, he added.

The government will also be solving other problems of the young such as housing, employment, and entertainment, thanks to financial stabilization already achieved, Chernomyrdin said. "The country is coming out of a spin," he added.

Commission To Comply With Presidential Election Date

LD1611221095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1741 GMT 16 Nov 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Federation Council, the upper house of Russian parliament, meeting on Wednesday [15 November] voted overwhelmingly in favor of a resolution appointing June 16, 1996 as the date for the next presidential election.

The Russian constitution provides for a presidential poll to be held on the first Sunday after the expiry of President Boris Yeltsin's term of office on June 12.

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The central election commission [CEC] is ready to comply with the new law though it would like the presidential race to start after the December general election is over, CEC secretary Aleksandr Vishnyakov told Interfax.

However, he thinks it will make more sense to enforce the resolution after December 17 as the nation settles down after general elections. But he said all legislative acts in Russia take effect from the day of publication.

In the meantime, Council sources told Interfax the latest resolution would not be delayed since no such stipulation was made in the minutes. (Council Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko is expected to endorse the text of the resolution being drawn up by Council staff — IF.)

For his part, head of the constitutional legislation committee Issa Kostoyev said the law on presidential elections endorsed by Boris Yeltsin on May 17, 1995 does not provide for any accompanying acts, resolutions or decrees for the latest decision to come into force.

It is now known that one of the CEC officials had asked the resolution authors to make a provision that it must be enforced after the December general election.

Shumeyko himself told reporters on Wednesday that the appointment of the date for presidential elections was both of legislative and political importance. He said the Council decision comes amid a political struggle over the election law, general uncertainty and allegations of a possible derailment of the December vote followed by an annulment of next year's presidential poll.

The speaker said the Council decision brings an end to speculations of undermining the December poll followed by chaos.

Media Issues

Chernomyrdin, Media Chief Agree on Finance Package

MM1711114195 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA Weekend Edition in Russian 17 Nov 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Pleasant News, and Premier Chernomyrdin Is Pleased To Share It With Us"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The draft law on financial support for the mass media was agreed on at a conference between Russian Federation Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and chief editors of the mass media. The draft law, which, according to the premier, will be signed by the president before the end of the year, provides for substantial benefits for all mass media regardless of the form of ownership.

Vitaliy Ignatenko, deputy head of government, reported that it is proposed to exempt the mass media from value-added tax on the work that they do, from taxation of the profits made on the production of output connected with education, science, and culture, from export and import customs duties on paper, equipment, and output, and from the compulsory sale of hard-currency profits. The rent on premises where mass media are located will be levied according to the tariff rates applying to cultural facilities, The buildings of the state mass media are transferred to their economic administrations. In addition, it is proposed to transfer to journalist collectives 50 percent of the shares in the state mass media in which shares are to be floated. According to Viktor Chernomyrdin, it is "very fair to channel" the first financial opportunities resulting from the stabilization of the Russian economy "into improving the financial position of those who have most actively supported the reformist transformations — the Russian mass media."

Meets Media Representatives

LD1611145395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1429 GMT 16 Nov 95

[By Gennadiy Yezhov and Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 16 (Itar-Tass) — With one month to go before the parliamentary elections, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin pledged himself to grant material support to the mass media. Chernomyrdin made this promise at a meeting with chief editors of central periodicals on Thursday [16 November]. He promised that a mechanism for the implementation of the law "On state support for the mass media and book publishing in Russia" will be worked out without delay. The law was endorsed by the Federation Council on Wednesday and referred for the signature to the Russian President.

The Prime Minister holds that the government is to adopt a number of resolutions which should be obligatory for tax, customs and other federal agencies. He believes this work should be completed before the end of the year so that the law should become viable immediately upon coming into effect.

Chernomyrdin believes the passage of the law attests to the economic stabilization in Russia. As a result of it the state can give real support to the press.

On the strength of the law, from 1,000 to 1,500 billion rubles will remain at the disposal of editorial boards as a result of tax rebates and benefits, a source in the Russian government told Itar-Tass.

The law exempts from value-added tax the profits from the marketing of newspapers and journals, the profits referred to the federal budget and the part of

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profits of editorial boards which is channeled for capital investment to develop the media.

There will be no custom duties on the import and export of products of the media. There will be no custom duties on newsprint, on audio and video information, technological and engineering equipment.

Editorial boards receive discounts in the use of postal, telegraph and telephone communications and in renting premises that are federal property. The new procedure of turning printing enterprises into joint-stock companies enables collectives of journalists to become co-owners of the property of printing houses.

Vitaliy Ignatenko, Deputy Prime Minister, told the meeting that the media are to be exempt from value-added tax on the cost of their work, from taxation on profits received from production connected with education, science and culture, from export and import customs duties on newsprint, equipment and products. The media are no longer obliged to sell foreign currency proceeds.

The pay for the renting of premises for the media will be made on the same tariffs with cultural amenities. Buildings of the state-owned media will be under their own management. In addition, 50 per cent of shares of the state-owned mass media meant for sale will be referred to journalists' collectives.

Chernomyrdin told the meeting that journalists' collectives should control the implementation of the law on state support for the media.

"It is only fair to use the first opportunities opening due to the stabilization of the Russian economy for the improvement of the financial position of those who most actively supported the reform — to the Russian media," Chernomyrdin said.

Military Issues

Chernomyrdin To Discuss Military Expenses

LD1711100795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0857 GMT 17 Nov 95

[By Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW November 17 (Itar-Tass) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin will meet Defense minister Pavel Grachev and top Russian military brass on Friday to discuss defense appropriations and economic problems faced by the army.

Government spokesman Sergey Kolesnikov told Tass the "meeting will focus mostly on probems of social and economic character, in particular, on issues of the financing of the Armed Forces".

Top Russian military brass arrived in Moscow for a regular meeting to consider the results of their work in 1995. A Defense ministry spokesman told Tass that present at the meeting with Chernomyrdin will be the leaders of the ministry and the General Headquarters, commanders of all arms and types of the armed forces, as well as commanders of military districts and fleets.

Yeltsin Adviser Interviewed on Arms Trade

MK1711112595 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 15 Nov 95 p 5

[Interview with Boris Kuzyk, presidential adviser on military-technical matters, by Aleksey Putintsev: "Boris Kuzyk: The Defense Industry Has a Chance To Get Out of the Crisis"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Article includes the following boxed biographical note]

[begin box] Boris Nikolayevich Kuzyk was born in Aleksandrov in 1958.

Graduated from the Yaroslavl High Financial Military School and the Military Faculty of the Moscow Financial Institute. Worked at the Defense Ministry, was deputy chief of the Special Works Directorate. From 1993, first deputy chief of the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry's Main Administration for Military-Technical Cooperation with Foreign Countries. Since June 1994, adviser to the Russian Federation president on matters of military-technical cooperation with foreign countries. [end box]

[Putintsev] Clearly, the president needs advisers on national security or international affairs — these are actually "royal" domains. But why does he need a special adviser on problems of military-technical cooperation? This is a fairly special area, there is no denying it...

[Kuzyk] This can be easily explained. The issue is strategic priorities that have been clearly defined by the president himself. Look carefully at his messages to the Federal Assembly. They say explicitly that the pivotal area in the economy is the development of the high-technology production sector. What sector is it? First of all, this is the defense sector. It so happened that our country's industrial elite was the famous "group of nine" defense industry ministries. It is there that high technologies and a formidable intellectual potential were concentrated. Hence, the conclusion that the president himself should supervise this sector at the highest political level. [passage omitted]

[Putintsev] But the president has an adviser on economic matters, doesn't he?

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[Kuzyk] Macroeconomic problems, in solving which the president is involved, require the preparation of a huge number of documents. This is the first unit, lawmaking. The second unit is the drafting of fully specific parts of the legislative framework, such as the budget. You know that the budgetary process in Russia lasts many months. One person is simply unable to attend to it all. In addition, one should account for the role and place of the military- industrial sector in our economy. The issue is not just the arms trade, but also large-scale conversion processes.

[Putintsev] Is this also part of your responsibilities?

[Kuzyk] All these are interrelated questions. In short, the most important thing is the state order for the defense ministry and the state export order.

[Putintsev] Problems emerge probably because the orders are not paid for.

[Kuzyk] How, tell me, can the Defense Ministry order anything if the budget is approved in the middle of the year? Correspondingly, the signing of preliminary contracts is proposed. Without any guarantees of payment at that.

[Putintsev] Is there an internal hierarchy within the service of advisers? Let's say, some have easier access to the president, others find it more difficult...

[Kuzyk] No one has encountered any problems regarding access to the president — if there is a real need for that. Here one does not have to be placed on a waiting list and then to be kept guessing whether they will let you in or they won't... There is a direct phone, you just pick up the receiver, and that's it. You can always turn to him and say: Boris Nikolayevich, there is a problem, may I agree on the time when it can be reported to you.

[Putintsev] There is a view that our economy can be shored up by selling arms. Are these hopes justified?

[Kuzyk] No, of course, these are illusions. Arms exports alone are not enough even to solve the defense industry's internal problems. The military-industrial sector of any developed state exists first of all thanks to its own army's orders. Only 10-12 percent of the defense industry, at most 30 percent, can be geared to exports.

But this should not be written off either. The sale of arms and military hardware is a very serious extrabudget source of financing the processes of restructuring that are under way in the military-industrial sector. This year, for instance, we plan to earn more than 2.5 billion dollars from exports. Just calculate at the current exchange rate, this is more than 11 trillion rubles.

[Putintsev] But the arms market in the world has shrunk in recent years. One can hardly expect to bring back "the golden era," when the USSR accounted for one third of the world arms market.

[Kuzyk] For starters, let's note that the Soviet Union did not have a market in the normal sense of this word. Everything was determined by political decisions, and a significant part of the weapons that we supplied to foreign countries was simply given for free — again, with a view to receiving certain political dividends. For this reason, the reproaches that we have lost ground we used to hold and left the arms market are, of course, irrelevant. For we received much less money in "cash" than Russia will earn from similar exports this year.

Now the situation is different. Not only are we restoring ties with our old partners, but we are also entering new markets. Malaysia and Kuwait, for instance — we have never been present there. Or take Brazil — this is a separate story altogether. Of course, such aggressive policy by Russia in this area causes concern among our competitors — France, Britain, the United States. For huge sums of money are at stake. Just imagine what forces are locking horns in the Near East, for instance. [passage omitted]

[Putintsev] And who controls arms deliveries?

[Kuzyk] There are several levels of control. The first one is international. By the way, Russia initiated the review of the former international system — just recall the notorious COCOM, whose rules imposed lots of restrictions on Russian exports and imports. Our stance was clearly formulated and did not evoke objections even from our rivals. A whole range of control mechanisms was agreed upon alongside the lists of weapons that may not be exported. At the same time we insist on removing all former restrictions from international treaties, particularly those regarding high-technology deliveries.

Domestic control within the state is entrusted to the State Committee on Military-Technical Policy. There is also an interdepartmental government commission under First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets — it makes decisions on matters of any importance. There is also a control system at the Defense Ministry. Furthermore, any defense enterprise, even one that was given the right to carry out foreign economic activity on its own, is placed under control one way or another. We cannot but have strong feelings regarding into whose hands up-to-date military hardware might fall — for the country's strategic interests are at stake here.

[Putintsev] Until recently, only the "MiG" MAPO [Moscow Aviation Production Association], which manufactures famous fighter jets, has had the right to operate

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on the foreign market. The press service of the State Defense Industry Committee has announced, however, that another 10 enterprises of the Russian military-industrial sector will be given such an opportunity before long. Does this indicate a switch to decentralized arms exports?

[Kuzyk] The issue is elsewhere. Over many years we delivered a huge quantity of military hardware to foreign countries. It might have been given free of charge — now this is no longer that important. What is important is that the hardware exists. Therefore, there is demand for servicing, spare parts, upgrade. Not everyone has enough money to buy new weapons after all... For this reason we should bring our manufacturers closer to foreign consumers. This will help the enterprises to resolve many of their own problems and at the same time to counter reproaches that we are unable to provide high-level servicing.

Under the presidential edict of 5 October, a new statute on assessing qualifications for the right to have access to foreign markets is being drawn up. This document will set forth clearer rules for all players — applicants from among enterprises and supervising agencies. It is proposed that many bureaucratic procedures and the need to collect numerous signatures be abolished. There is a consumer and there is the Committee for Military-Technical Policy, which, on the basis of contracts signed, issues an export license, and that's it. [passage omitted]

[Putintsev] Presently a process of mergers and takeovers has begun inside the military-industrial sector, financial-industrial groups are beginning to emerge. Will this not bring about an increase in monopolism?

[Kuzyk] As long as our economy was isolated, any large Russian enterprise seemed to be a huge monopolistic monster. But operating on the foreign market has shown that our giants are not that big by international standards. Moreover, it turned out that competitors have to be fought at all stages — from the sale of products to the post-sale servicing. In other words, new forms of large structures to which the defense industry is still unaccustomed — concerns, holdings, and financial-industrial groups — are now essential.

It is very important that presently the designers and manufacturers of technology join forces, thus pooling scientific and production potentials. This is the foundation. Moreover, it is dozens of enterprises, not one or two, that come together. In the aircraft manufacturing industry, for instance, it is not only a matter of design bureaus and aircraft-making enterprises, but this process also involves engine, avionics, rocket, identification system production plants, and so forth. Yet, they have limited financial resources. In present conditions, there is no relying on the budget either. What is needed is an influx of financial capital. Banks, for their part, are ready to invest only if the industrial partner can offer normal business plans specifying how this money will be used and if it can demonstrate that there is a potential market for its products, be it weapons and military hardware or dual-purpose technologies and civilian production. There are such projects already. The other day, for instance, we considered three very serious programs, one of which involves a domestic investor — and two other, foreign ones. Despite a widely-held view that Russian bankers only hoard money abroad, practice has shown that large banks are ready for long-term cooperation with the military-industrial sector. There are already two-year and even three-year programs. Investment and insurance companies are also joining in — without insurance there is simply nothing to be done on the foreign market. Thus, a new economic organism emerges. [passage omitted]

[Putintsev] The military-industrial sector has always been a burden for our economy. Can the creation of financial-industrial groups change the situation, ease this burden?

[Kuzyk] The military-industrial sector, indeed, used to account for up to 50 percent of production in a number of sectors. Not any more. The thing is that we have stopped burdening our economy and taxpayers with arms deliveries to foreign countries free of charge. In addition, the market has singled out money-losing industries for whose production there is no demand on the domestic or foreign markets. What is needed here is a mechanism of competent restructuring, civilized bankruptcies. At the same time, during the reorganization many enterprises can be included in large, viable structures.

[Putintsev] The crisis in the defense industry has long become the talk of the town. Is there a chance to overcome it?

[Kuzyk] Presently, work has effectively been completed to draw up a long-term armaments program. The effort started two years ago, but it had no legal underpinning at all — there were no real budget projections because, if you remember, it took a year to draw up the budget at the time. There was no complete clarity with regard to the military doctrine and the structure of the Armed Forces either. Generally speaking, it was too early to draw the line. Now much has already become clear and prospects are opening up for the defense industry, too. For the armaments program is expected to run for at least 10 years, not one year or two.

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[Putintsev] All this is reminiscent of an attempt to restore the former military machine...

[Kuzyk] No one is going to recreate the old system. It is well known that by presidential decision a commission was set up to draw up proposals on army reform. Given Russia's geopolitical role, the Defense Ministry's objectives have been specified. This is the basis on which the requisite logistical support and set of weapons are to be calculated that are necessary to achieve specific objectives. This is the requisite minimum to keep the army combat-ready.

[Putintsev] And how can an armaments program be drawn up if a debate is still going on as to what the Russian Army should be, how many fleets and what air force elements it needs, and so forth?

[Kuzyk] This is precisely the essence of the program. It defines priorities linked to specific objectives. For instance, an objective can be achieved by using the Navy, strategic aviation, and, let's say, the Air Defense forces. It would be ideal if every armed service were capable of fulfilling this mission, and their reliability would treble. But given the current economic situation we should make a choice — so preference regarding this specific objective is given, for example, to the Navy. Correspondingly, the requisite weapons and military hardware systems are to be created.

[Putintsev] Will the program be approved by parliament?

[Kuzyk] It is to be considered by the Security Council first. I think that this will be done within the next two or three months.

[Putintsev] In other words, it will be passed too late to be included in the 1996 budget...

[Kuzyk] Of course, some unrealistic figures could be included in the budget, but what for? The problem should be resolved gradually, in stages, even though this is more difficult to do. Once we pass the program, we will say: This is the level that will ensure Russian security. And then we will raise the question of financial sources. Although we have long been giving thought to this matter.

[Putintsev] Have you managed to come up with any ideas yet?

[Kuzyk] Financing could be done differently. Direct budget financing can be accompanied by the Finance Ministry's loans. Options involving securities and the circulation of bills of exchange have also been discussed. Arms exports should be broadened as much as possible, while proceeds should be channeled into the defense industry, not spent to pay off the budget deficit. Finally, the state's preferences — here, too, various types of incentives for boosting production can be found.

[Putintsev] You are looking at your watch more and more often. It seems that your workload has not diminished during the president's illness, or has it?

[Kuzyk] It has even increased. Simply, many steps that we took at the end of last year and at the beginning of this year are beginning to pay back. For instance, a year ago we spoke about the creation of financial-industrial groups in the military-industrial sector only as a good idea, while presently we discuss with general directors a very serious document that will determine characteristic features of such groups' operations.

All matters are reported to the president. The process has gathered sustainable momentum. I have already mentioned the growth in export deliveries — an increment of nearly $1 billion within just one year. So the prospects are not bad. By the way, certain progress in this area has been made since the president's trip to the United States and his meetings with top persons of many states. At the same time, a serious reorganization of the internal mechanism of the military-industrial sector is under way. On the whole, our service's workload has increased. But, believe me, I am glad that this is so.

Daily Speculates Grachev Ouster, Lebed Appointment

MK1611124295 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 14 Nov 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Aleksandr Sveshnikov: "Where Are the Rooks [pun on Grachev's surname, 'grach' meaning 'rook'] To Spend the Winter? Fodder for the Swan ['lebed' in Russian] Has Already Been Provided"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The latest statements by the Russian president about reshuffles at the top continue to agitate the minds of leading state officials. Nobody wants to place his head under the ax while there are not guarantees that the president's disfavor will bypass him. After the boss's wrath with respect to Kozyrev and Ilyushenko, speculation has been rife in presidential and government circles as to who will be next. In fact there are only three — unpopular ones — left now: Anatoliy Chubays, Pavel Grachev, and Andrey Kozyrev.

Chubays has more than once demonstrated his ability to survive in difficult situations: It is enough to recall the fall of Polevanov, former chairman of the State Property Committee, who dared to challenge the "chief privatizer." Kozyrev has already been publicly berated by the president as a disobedient child, leaving him in agonizing suspense: Will there be a dessert or not? This

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leaves only Pavel Grachev — the "best defense minister of all times and nations." Maybe this accounts for the extremely tough criticism of Pavel Sergeyevich on the part of Viktor Chernomyrdin and Vladimir Panskov at a Russian Federation Government session?

Competent circles already cite the actual name of Grachev's successor. According to reports filtering in from behind the Kremlin walls, former army commander Lebed is being tipped for this post. There are several reasons for such an unexpected decision. First, an "untamed" Lebed poses a serious threat to the incumbent ruling authority in the elections. The Congress of Russian Communities [KRO] election association, where he is the number two after Yuriy Skokov, is quickly picking up pace. Recently there have been persistent rumors that Skokov is a realistic alternative to Viktor Chernomyrdin as prime minister. Incidentally, in a conversation with journalists the president did not rule out such a turn of events.

True, Yuriy Skokov categorically denies rumors about any separate negotiations with the Kremlin. Presumably, failing to come to terms with Skokov, the Kremlin has moved in from another side, seeking, if not to "tame," then at least to neutralize Lebed. General Lebed has gone into politics as, in the opinion of many, the only military man who throughout the history of Russia's peacekeeping activity on the territory of the former USSR has completed his mission successfully. Thanks to the general, peace, even if fragile, was established in the Dniester region, which in itself is unique for the post-Soviet space. Also in the Dniester region, Lebed acquired a reputation as a defender of the interests of Russian citizens and earned glory as the "beloved father" of all military servicemen under his command. It will be recalled to what lengths the servicemen's mothers and wives went not to allow new commander Valeriy Yevnevich into Tiraspol. They had more than serious reasons for concern: Who would protect them and their families if Lebed left?

However, anyone who has some knowledge of army affairs will notice at once that a rise from army commander to defense minister is too rapid. It does not happen this way: First the district and then the services [vidy] levels have to be passed. True, Grachev himself made it from division commander to minister within two years. The results are well in evidence. There has never been a reform in the Armed Forces, while everything that has remained of the Soviet Army is inoperative. A tank crew for Chechnya sometimes had to be raised from three districts. The setup is clear: The predecessor's sins can be attributed to the incompetence of the new minister.

In fact, however, it seems that nobody is going to give Aleksandr Lebed full control of the army. There is the commander in chief for that, who is also the president, and the chief of the General Staff as the executor of the commander in chief's will. Military experts do not rule out that after Lebed's appointment as minister the president will go ahead with the long-overdue separation of the functions of the Defense Ministry and the General Staff or Joint Chiefs of Staff. Lebed in this scheme could be given charge of administrative and logistical affairs and representative functions at official meetings and receptions. Actual command of the troops would be exercised by the General Staff. But then — a major plus of this plan — Lebed would have no time for high politics.

As for Pavel Grachev, to all appearances, he has begun to prepare an "alternate airfield" for himself in advance. Otherwise why should he conduct a reconnaissance operation to test the chances for his nomination as candidate for Duma deputy from Saratov. Seeing that he will lose elections in a single-seat constituency while none of the blocs, parties, or movements have offered to include his name in federal lists, Pavel Grachev has made a wise statement that it is now more important for him to be in the ministry.

Thus center stage has been taken by Lebed who, should he be appointed minister, will miss no opportunity of reminding Grachev about the collapse of the Armed Forces. Legal action on all shady army deals can be reopened as well as the case of the Western Army Group and the general's dachas. Without influential support from the president, Grachev will have an uphill battle standing up to all this. Therefore the number one task for Grachev today is to "shoot the swan" [Lebed].

It will be recalled that last time Grachev succeeded in this, and even not with his own hands. After a talk with General Staff Chief Kolesnikov and Ground Forces Commander Semenov, Lebed submitted his resignation. But this will not work a second time, because today Lebed is a free bird. Juridically speaking, he is a civilian, i.e. not under Grachev's immediate jurisdiction.

True, Grachev has hardly any serious grounds to worry. To all appearances, the president will not give him up completely, placing him under somebody's cushy wing, as, for instance, was the case with former Internal Affairs Minister Viktor Yerin. They say that a Commission on Reform in the Armed Forces will be created as part of the presidential staff, to be headed by Pavel Grachev. (With Lebed as minister, Grachev will surely become the greatest reformer!) There is also an alternative option: Grachev will be offered the post of presidential military adviser.

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It is a thankless task to share the skin of a bear that has not been hunted yet. There have been plenty of rumors and speculation about Grachev's imminent resignation since he was appointed minister. But his hectic attempts to find a "scapegoat" to blame for the disintegration of the army show that this time the rumors may not be without grounds.

Official Claims Russia Complied With CFE Obligations

LD1611171495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1551 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 16 (Interfax) — Russia has fully complied with its obligations to reduce its conventional arms under the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty, the head of the international cooperation department of Russia's General Headquarters, Col. Gen. Dmitriy Kharchenko, told Interfax Thursday.

According to Kharchenko, Russia has destroyed 3,520 tanks, 6,004 armored vehicles, 1,096 artillery systems, 1,021 combat jets and 99 assault helicopters. "Therefore, we have complied with the arms levels set for Russia's European part: 6,400 tanks, 11,480 armored vehicles, 6,415 artillery systems and 3,459 combat jets," he stated.

Kharchenko said the arms had been destroyed according to methods previously agreed on. Tanks were dismantled and destroyed at special bases, while jets and helicopters were simply cut into pieces, he added.

At the same time, Russia had more arms in the flank Leningrad and North Caucasus districts than allowed by the treaty.

The deadline for compliance with the CFE treaty is midnight, November 17.

According to Kharchenko, the CFE treaty will not be fully complied with by Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

Admiral Claims Marines at 65% of Full Strength

LD1611215195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1852 GMT 16 Nov 95

[By Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 16 (Itar-Tass) — Russian marine corps will have more recruits this year than during the preceding three years, Russian Navy Commander-in-Chief Admiral Valentin Selivanov told Itar-Tass today. He was participating in a solemn ceremony to mark the 290th anniversary of the Russian marine corps.

According to the Admiral, at the moment units and detachments of the marines have 65 per cent of their strength. Their number is expected to be raised to a level of 85 per cent, and in certain units and formations of the fleets even to full 100 per cent, he said.

Valentin Selivanov is of the view that the marine corps is the most mobile and technically equipped branch of the navy. At present it comprises one division, three separate brigades and two separate battalions.

Formed in compliance with an ukaz (decree) issued by Czar Peter the First, the Russian marine corps took part in all major naval battles fought by the Russian navy. During the Great Patriotic War the navy landed 110 operational and tactical parties, in which almost one hundred thousand men took part.

Combat actions in Chechnya turned out to be a serious test for the Russian marine corps, where it lost 172 of its men and another 564 were wounded. Twelve of the marines were awarded the title of Hero of Russia for their bravery, and over four thousand others were decorated with orders and medals.

Federal Assembly

Duma 'Unlikely' To Accept Variant Bill on Forming FC

LD1611165195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1415 GMT 16 Nov 95

[By Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 16 (Itar-Tass) — The State Duma is unlikely to back the variant of the bill on forming the Federation Council [FC], which was submitted by Ivan Rybkin to President Boris Yeltsin on Wednesday, Vladimir Isakov, chairman of the Duma committee on legislation, told Itar-Tass on Thursday.

The bill initiated by Rybkin's deputies Mikhail Mityukov and Artur Chilingarov, can serve as a model of a laconic document. However, the document of only seven lines does not mention a lot of important things, Isakov said.

The bill says nothing about the status of members of the Federation Council, its procedures and many other important aspects, the deputy said.

Isakov also criticized the document for a provision which says that president can appoint members of the Council. The provision violates the status of the house as a representative body of power, he said.

Commenting on Rybkin's statement that Yeltsin spoke in favor of the Duma's variant of the bill, Isakov said

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that the document would allow the head of the state to act as he wants because the bill does not commit anybody to anything.

According to the deputy, the Duma will neither support the variant of the bill proposed by Vladimir Shumeyko because the document does not conform to the constitution.

Isakov proposed setting up a tripartite commission consisting of representatives of the president and the two houses, which would work out a variant in line with the constitution.

Lack of Rules for FC Formation Fostering Crisis

MK1711062195 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 15 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Veronika Kutsyllo: "It Is Easy To Put the Evil Eye on What Nobody Likes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday at 1500 the ORT [Russian Public Television] News Agency reported that as many as 97 house members had voted for a draft law on the procedure for forming the Federation Council [FC]. The deputies were somewhat surprised: Consideration of the question was not to have begun until 1600. Several minutes into the debate it became clear: They had put the evil eye on it! The draft did not suit anybody except Vladimir Shumeyko, and even him only partially. With less than a month to go before 12 December (under the Constitution, members of the first Federation Council were elected for two years), the fate of the Federation Council is just as hazy as it was several months ago, which means that Russia will not be short of constitutional crises for the foreseeable future.

As KOMMERSANT-DAILY wrote yesterday, the new draft law on formation of the Federation Council was to take into account the interests of all parties concerned: regional chiefs, the president, and Federation Council incumbents, because under the draft, the bone of contention — the procedure for delegating federation representatives to the Federation Council — has been left to the discretion of the Federation components themselves. However, in actual fact, nearly all Federation Council members thought there were too few "advantages" for them and too many "shortfalls." According to Vladimir Shumeyko, of the Federation components that sent the Federation Council comments on the draft, 34 supported it, 23 believe that Federation Council members should be elected in a nationwide ballot, and 18 are opposed to presenting federal authorities with voting rights. That is to say, there was no consensus. Elected administration chiefs are loath to share their chairs with appointed ones. The appointed ones do not want to depend on the decision of their legislature: Maybe they will provide for the delegation of a "presidential proxy" in the upper house, and maybe they won't. Members of the first Federation Council clearly did not appreciate the provision whereby they will be able to retain their seats in the house if the regions so desire, and it is obvious why: It is difficult to imagine that regional heads will easily grant them such an honor.

Even Vladimir Shumeyko's unequivocal explanation — that while things sort themselves out (it could take a long time before the Federation components adopt laws on delegating their representatives to the Federation Council), the incumbents may sit in the house as late as the end of 1996 — failed to soften the general attitude to the draft. Everybody realizes only too well that after 12 December any Russian citizen (and some members of the Duma — if it is elected — will do it with great pleasure) can raise the question of the legitimacy of the upper house.

"Presidential senators," advocated by Shumeyko in such a dedicated way, are one of the sorest spots. They are not covered by the Constitution, and even the Yeltsin staff understands that the constitutionality of such appointees would be highly questionable. Mikhail Krasnov, the president's legal adviser, has already criticized the speaker's position, and yesterday Sergey Filatov commented on Shumeyko's version. The split in the Federation Council is so deep that the Kremlin is pinning even greater hopes on the Duma. According to Filatov, the president could well sign the law on the Federation Council's formation, adopted by the State Duma (twice: the second time by overriding the Federation Council veto), if the Duma abandons its intention to revise the presidential edict postponing gubernatorial elections until December 1996. Under the law returned to the Duma the day before yesterday, Federation Council members are the elected heads of executive and legislative authorities in the regions. Boris Yeltsin does not envision any appointment of house members.

So far it is difficult to predict the Duma position: It can be linked to the fate of the law on State Duma elections. Especially given that the Federation Council also decided to take part in it: The issue of Duma elections was included in the upper house's agenda. True, judging by what Shumeyko said, Federation Council members have their own, rather original, approach to the problem. At least the speaker himself is against the lifting of the 5-percent barrier, because he believes that in this event only people at the top of all party lists will get into the Duma; that is to say, people from Moscow, so disliked in the regions. Who knows, maybe the Duma will yet have to thank the Federation Council for support?

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Shumeyko Said Seeking Permanent Upper House Seat

MM1711114995 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17-24 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Ivan Utkin: "Is Shumeyko There for Life? Emotions in the Upper House"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For any reader who does not know, the parliament is now discussing how best to organize the elections to the Federation Council. Deputies in the upper house were given the latest draft law "On the Procedure for the Formation of the Federation Council" 14 November. It was submitted by Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko personally.

The third paragraph of Article 1 reads as follows: "Under the current federal law the president of the Russian Federation sends two representatives to the Federation Council." It turns out that first 90 oblasts and republics pick their deputies and then the 91st component by the name of the president comes along and appoints another two by edict (or maybe even by telephone — the draft does not say how this is done). He is voter, Central Electoral Commission, and credentials commission all in one.

Article 2 tells us: The chairman of the local duma or his deputy can be a deputy from the representative power. Both are elected by the people so there is no question whom they represent. While Article 3 says that either the head of the administration or his deputy go to the Federation Council from the administration or another executive body.

The only question is who elected the deputy? No one. Who appointed him? The head of the administration. You get the feeling that all this procedure is being introduced to suit a specific person. Matochkin, head of Kaliningrad Oblast Administration, for instance, has appointed Shumeyko his latest deputy — even though he is a Federation Council deputy from Kaliningrad Oblast. And he sends his deputy to the capital. How can else are you supposed to get Mr. Shumeyko into the next Federation Council? After all, he is not a governor or even an oblast duma member.

But the real rub comes at the end of the draft. According to Article 11, the old deputies will be replaced by new ones in pairs like in the children's game "London Bridge is falling down." The new oblast head is elected and a local duma is elected — then the nice new pair replaces the current representatives of their Federation component. But (Article 12) says: "The legislative...and executive organ of state power of a Federation component is entitled to vest a deputy of the Federation Council, First Convocation with....the powers of representative of the aforesaid organ of state power...." That is, if you reach agreement with the local governor, you can be a deputy indefinitely.

Federation Council deputies have of course wrapped up this matter. Officially it is being finalized. Here is the dialogue that occurred in parliament on this score (quoting from the stenographic record):

"Deputy Yu.Ye. Lodkin: Vladimir Filippovich, you are of course a resourceful politician....

"V.F. Shumeyko: Oh.....

"Yu.Ye. Lodkin: And sometimes your resourcefulness turns to perfidy.

"V.F. Shumeyko: Not at all.

"Yu.Ye. Lodkin: I understand your tactical....

"V.F. Shumeyko: I would put it differently: You are clever but your cleverness sometimes turns....

"Yu.Ye. Lodkin: To perfidy.

"V.F. Shumeyko: I would agree.

"Chairman: To deviousness."

Regional Affairs

Chechnya Reportage: Politics, Negotiations, Military

Presidential Elections Set for 17 Dec

LD1711104595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0947 GMT 17 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sharip Asuyev and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 17 Nov — Today the Chechen Government approved the idea of holding elections to the Russian State Duma as well as elections of the head of the Chechen Republic in Chechnya on 17 December. Ruslan Martagov, press secretary of the head of the Chechen republic, reported this to ITAR-TASS correspondents.

According to Martagov, the issue should be finally resolved at a session of the Chechen Supreme Soviet scheduled for 18 November. Heads of local administration have been invited to the session. Nothing has been reported about the participation of representatives of the committee for national accord in the work of the session.

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Nationalities Head Views Elections

LD1611134295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1254 GMT 16 Nov 95

[By Gennadiy Temnenkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BONN, November 16 (Itar-Tass) — Minister for Nationalities and Regional Policy Vyacheslav Mikhaylov spoke at a press conference here today in favor of holding simultaneously in Chechnya the elections to the State Duma and elections of the head of state. "There is one more thing I would add to them, specifically, elections to the Federation Council, in which the Chechen Republic is not represented," he said, answering a question of Tass.

In his opinion, the simultaneous holding of the elections would be reasonable, because not only federal problems, but first of all problems of the republic itself should be resolved there. This is why of all those elections, elections to the local and republican bodies of power would be of priority importance for the Chechen population.

At the same time Mikhaylov said that there was no need to hold simultaneous elections in Chechnya next December, like in all other regions of the Russian Federation. "They could be held along with the creation of appropriate conditions," he said and pointed to the example of Tatarstan, where elections to the State Duma and the Federation Council were held much later than in the rest of the country.

Dudayev Aide Opposes Elections

LD1611130795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1104 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 16 (Interfax) — The Russian authorities' intention to hold elections for Chechnya's leader signifies that they have given up talks on a peaceful settlement with Dudayev loyalists, said Hoj-Ahmed Yarikhanov, Dudayev camp chief negotiator at talks with the federal authorities on settlement in Chechnya, in an Interfax interview Thursday.

Commenting on the simultaneous election of Chechnya's leader and its State Duma deputy on December 17, as discussed in Moscow Wednesday by President Boris Yeltsin and his special envoy to Chechnya Oleg Lobov, Yarikhanov said that elections to local government bodies should have been discussed between Russian and Chechen officials in the framework of a package of political issues.

"Since President Yeltsin and Oleg Lobov decided without consulting us that the republic's leader must be elected now, this means that they have given up further negotiations, Yarikhanov said.

To elect the head of Chechnya is "basically unconstitutional," since neither the old constitution of the Chechen-Ingush Republic, nor the Constitution of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria (Interfax's note: Dudayev's loyalists) provide for such a post, he said.

"This is a mockery of common sense; I hope that the people of Chechnya will not stand such humiliation, and so the proposed elections will be unlikely to take place," said Yarikhanov.

Party Leader Opposes Elections

LD1611131695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1104 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 16 (Interfax) — Leader of the National Independence Party (NIP) in Groznyy Ruslan Kutayev says tensions run high in Chechnya following Moscow statements on plans to hold elections for a Chechen head of state.

The NIP leader in an interview with Interfax did not rule out a possible outbreak of violence if such an attempt was made. "The situation will get out of hand if this happens," Kutayev said.

The NIP leadership meeting late on Wednesday adopted a statement calling against any elections in Chechnya until its status was determined, he said.

It says any attempt to try to force illegitimate elections of a Chechen head of state is nothing short of an attempt to unleash civil war in the republic.

Experts Working on Agreements

LD1711125795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1024 GMT 17 Nov 95

[By Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, November 17 (Itar-Tass) — A group of experts started work in Groznyy to draft agreements between the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic on the main principles of relations, chairman of the Chechen government Doku Zavgayev told a news conference in Groznyy on Friday.

These principles will be put at the basis of a future treaty between the Russian Federation and Chechnya.

Turning to elections in the republic, Zavgayev noted that this is one of the main questions now. According to the chairman, there is no real power in Chechnya now.

"Our people are now able to make their choice. My viewpoint is that the elections should be held at the earliest," Zavgayev stressed.

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He confirmed that he had earlier met Dudayev's aides in the village named after Kalinin. Another meeting is planned. According to Zavgayev, these people are looking for a way out of the present situation.

Speaking of the negotiations, Zavgayev emphasised that they should be between Chechens. "If Chechens reach agreement between themselves, we shall overcome all other difficulties," he continued.

Turning to financing restoration work in Chechnya in 1996, Zavgayev underlined that "Moscow satisfied many of our requests". The premier reported that he brought 153 billion rubles from Moscow in cash.

Statement Issued to Russian Leaders

LD1611234995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 16 (Interfax) — Instead of searching for ways to establish peace, Chechen leaders are engaged in a struggle for power which could lead to a confrontation between political forces and have tragic consequences for the population, according to a Chechen National Accord Committee political statement issued in Groznyy Thursday [16 November].

The statement is addressed to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Presidential Envoy to Chechnya Oleg Lobov and Chechen Prime Minister Doku Zavgayev.

According to the statement, "the newly elected prime minister and the old parliament have begun dangerous actions" despite agreements on cooperation. Such actions include the appointment of Doku Zavgayev as head of the republic, a post not envisioned by the Constitution, as well as the appointment of two deputy prime ministers without previous consultations with the National Accord Committee. The committee describes the situation in Chechnya as difficult and explosive as "combat activities have been resumed and several villages have been bombed and shelled."

The committee demands that federal authorities and Chechen leaders take effective steps to prevent the restart of hostilities and to ensure the implementation of the military agreement.

Both Sides Report Cease-Fire Violations

LD1611204395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 16 (Interfax) — The Chechen General Staff accused federal troops Thursday of shelling various Chechen villages.

According to an official staff report, federal forces used artillery and Grad rocket launchers to shell Chechen positions near villages in the Vedeno, Achkhoy-Martan and Nozhay-Yurt districts 29 times from Thursday morning until 2:00 p.m.

The report says Russian planes bombed the Makhazhoy highland village in the afternoon, leaving various casualties.

According to the report, a Russian reconnaissance plane made repeated flights over Chechnya in the past days. The Chechen staff noted that during earlier intense fighting the plane had been used to define targets for later air strikes.

An officer on duty at the staff said that intense artillery shelling near the villages of Stary Achkhoy, Bamut and Orekhovo continued as of 8:00 p.m. Moscow time.

According to the Russian federal forces press office, Chechen militants opened fire at federal troops' positions 59 times for the past 24 hours, a record number for about six months.

Shkirko Denies 'Dudayev Propaganda'

LD1611145495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1404 GMT 16 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 16 Nov — Lieutenant General Anatoliy Shkirko, heading the federal forces in Chechnya, has categorically refuted Dudayev propaganda allegations about the shelling of Chechen villages.

Answering a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent on how he would comment on the allegations of Dudayev's "minister of information" Udugov that the federal forces fired at a series of populated areas from artillery and from helicopters, the general said: "This announcement is a provocation. At present they need provocations, blood, and sensations around nonexistent events, so as to hide their crimes."

Federal Troops Report Casualties

LD1711121995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1125 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 17 (Interfax) — The situation in the Chechen republic remains complicated as more small arms and mortar attacks are launched on federal positions in the villages of Achkhoy-Martan, Stary Achkhoy and Bamut, the press center of the federal contingent in Chechnya told Interfax.

Armed forces attempted to seize a federal outpost in the north-western suburb of Achkhoy-Martan at 13:13 on

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November 16. Their attack was rebuffed. The federal troops suffered no losses. Enemy losses are yet to be counted.

A total of 30 attacks on federal positions in Chechnya were reported in the past 24 hours, the press center said.

A mechanized infantry combat vehicle headed for an assembly area but hit a landmine, at 9:35 on November 16. One serviceman was killed and two were wounded.

A shooting champion from the Tomsk region was detained at the railroad of Shelkovskaya. She is suspected of holding federal positions under sniper fire.

The situation inside Groznyy remains complicated, the press center said.

As many as 27 fire attacks were reported in that city. Eighteen fiercest attacks were reported in the Leninskiy, five in the Staropromyslovskiy, and four in the Oktyabrskiy, Districts. The attacking forces used automatic and sniper rifles.

One federal serviceman was killed and four were wounded in the past 24 hours, the press center said.

Overnight Attacks Reported

LD1711062995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0501 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 17 Nov — In the past 24 hours the positions of the federal forces in Chechnya have been sujected to fire 30 times, including 27 times in Groznyy. One serviceman was killed and four wounded as a result.

A spokesman of the press center of the joint forces' command reported to ITAR-TASS today that the situation in the Chechen republic remains complicated. The positions of the federal troops in the populated locations of Achkhoy-Martan, Staryy Achkhoy, and Bamut were subjected to intensive fire from a rifle and mortars. During the daytime on Thursday [16 November] a group of armed fighters from the illegal armed formations attacked a military subunit's post on the northwestern outskirts of Achkhoy-Martan in order to capture it. The attack was repelled. There were no casualties among the servicemen. Losses among the armed fighters are being clarified.

At 0935 this morning an infantry armored car was blown up by a mine in one of the districts of the Chechen republic while moving into position. One serviceman was killed, two were injured.

A resident of Tomsk Region, a master of sport in shooting, was detained at Shelkovskaya railway station. She is suspected of shooting at federal forces while acting as a sniper for the illegal armed formations.

Russian Air Force Accused of Bombing Village

LD1711101695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0931 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 17 (Itar-Tass) — Chechen militants claimed on Friday [17 November] that Russian Air Force had bombed the village of Makadzhoy, 60 kilometres south-east of Groznyy, killing one and wounding three people, but the Russian military denied the report.

Movlady Udugov, the information minister of separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, told Tass by telephone Friday that Chechen positions had been shelled 42 times in the past 24 hours. "The aviation was used once", he said adding that villages in the Vedeno and Achkhoy-Martan regions were shelled.

Federal forces spokesman reiterated earlier rejections of the Russian commander in Chechnya that Air Force and artillery are used to shell Chechen villages. On Thursday commander Anatoliy Shkirko qualified such statements of Udugov as "a provocation".

"They need a provocation, need blood, ballyhoo over non-existing events to conceal their crimes", he said.

The press centre of the Russian military command said that positions of federal troops in Chechnya were fired on 30 times over the past 24 hours, including 27 times in Groznyy. As a result, one soldier was killed and four wounded.

Federal troops in the villages of Achkhoy-Martan, Stariy Achkhoy and Bamut were subject to intense shooting from firearms and trench mortars. A group of gunmen attacked a post of federal forces on the north-western outskirts of Achkhoi-Martan in order to capture it. The attack was rebuffed.

Udugov confirmed that a one-hour combat took place near Bamut.

Internal Chechen Dialogue Begun in Goyty

LD1611232595 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 16 Nov 95

[From the "Segodnya" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The internal Chechen dialogue, of which there is so much talk among politicians today, both in Chechnya and outside it, may become a reality. Today, in the village of Goyty in Urus-Martan district, a meeting took place between field commanders heading Dudayev's main armed formations and representatives of Chechens considered to be in opposition to both Dzhokhar Dudayev and his supporters. The meeting was organized and chaired by the leader of a movement

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which calls itself the Party of People's Diplomacy of Chechnya [Partiya narodnoy diplomatii Chechni]. The speakers said during the meeting that the action was aimed at reconciling all the groupings which are still hostile toward each other for the sake of the main thing — peace and accord on Chechen soil which, in their opinion, neither federal troops nor the government of National Rebirth of Chechnya, which is supported by Moscow today, can bring. None of the representatives of the present Chechen government attended the meeting. As far as the possibility of contacts is concerned, for instance at the level of Zavgayev-Dudayev, the field commanders think that such a dialogue is not yet possible.

[Begin Akhmed Zakayev, field commander south-west front, recording] Zavgayev, to-date, represents the interests of Russia and I don't think that Dudayev needs to meet Russia through an intermediary to discuss relations with it. Dudayev should meet a legitimate representative of power of Russia, and Russia should also hold talks with the legitimate representative of power of Chechnya — that is, with Dudayev. [end recording]

[Correspondent] If this position receives support among the population of Chechnya soon, the political situation may change sharply. Dudayev's supporters will try to do what neither Salambek Khadzhiyev, Umar Avturkhanov, nor Doku Zavgayev have managed to do yet: to unite and to carry the majority of people along with them. It is planned to continue such acts of unification soon. The organizers of today's action told us that such meetings might take place in other villages soon. Thus it may be considered that the internal Chechen dialogue has begun, although it will be somewhat different in its essence from the model which representatives of the federal authorities propose here in Chechnya.

Four Japanese Fishing Boats Ousted From Kunashir Strait

LD1711101995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0926 GMT 17 Nov 95

[By Larisa Beloivan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIVOSTOK, November 17 (Itar-Tass) — The situation was strained again on the border fishing grounds around the southern Kurils today morning after quite a lengthy lull [sentence as received]. Four Japanese fishing boats violated the Russian sea border in the Kunashir Strait.

Itar-Tass was told at the headquarters of the Pacific Borderguard Area that the boats sailed about three miles into Russian territorial waters to poach there. Patrol ship "Amur" and helicopters forced the Japanese boats to leave the area. No fire was opened at the violators.

According to information released by the Marine Department of the Pacific Borderguard Area, up to fifty Japanese fishing boats had gathered on the brink of the Russian territorial waters during the incident.

Plans Under Way for Conversion of Siberian Plutonium Plant

LD1711101195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0920 GMT 17 Nov 95

[By Yuriy Khotz]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KRASNOYARSK November 17 (Itar-Tass) — American and Russian specialists are jointly developing alternative sources of thermal energy for Krasnoyarsk-26, to be used after the reactor of the mining and chemical complex comes to a standstill here by the year 2000. In December 1995 three joint working groups will submit to the Russian Ministry of the Atomic Energy and the U.S. Department of Energy their plans of the conversion of the industrial complex in Siberia, which is now producing plutonium for defense purposes, director of the complex Valeriy Lebedev told Tass today.

There were three reactors for the production of plutonium at the Krasnoyarsk mining and chemical complex early in the 90s. They were all situated deep underground. In 1992 two reactors were stopped in accordance with an intergovernmentl agreement between Russia and the United States. The third reactor is still in operation, however, because, aside from plutonium, it produces heat and electricity for the city with a population of 100,000.

We are now considering three alternative ways to produce thermal energy, Lebedev said. The first one is the completion of the construction of a heating plant in the city of Sosnovoborsk, situated nearby. The second group of experts is examining a possibility of the conversion of the active zone of the reactor, which is now in operation, so that it will go on functioning, but without the production of plutonium. Technically, it is possible, but it will not be the best way from the economic point of view. Besides, the service life of the reactor will end in 2005, and it will have to be stopped anyway.

The third group is examining a possibility of the construction of a new nuclear power plant in the existing underground adits of the complex. Despite the strict regime of secrecy, which is still in effect at the complex, American specialists saw the reactor several times and examined its technical condition.

We believe that the building of a new underground nuclear power plant will be probably the best solution,

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Lebedev continued. We suggest that the VK-300 reactor, produced in Russia, should be chosen for that purpose. Reactors of this type account for about half of the electric and thermal energy, generated in the United States. It should be pointed out in this connection that, in the opinion of Academician Sakharov, nuclear power plants can be built only underground. Another advantage of this solution is that it will provide jobs for the skilled engineers and workers from the complex.

The U.S. took upon itself the financing of the research for the project. After all the needed documents are prepared, investors will have to be found, including across the ocean, for putting into practice the solution, chosen by specialists. In this case the conversion of the mining and chemical complex in Krasnoyarsk-26 may become one of major joint ventures of Russian and American industrialists, Lebedev believes.

Economic Issues

Premier Meets Head of Russian Banks Association

MK1611142995 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 16 Nov 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Prime Minister Has Met With the Chairman of the Association of Russian Banks"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday [15 November], Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Sergey Yegorov, chairman of the Association of Russian Banks, discussed questions concerning the strengthening of the national banking system. According to Aleksandr Zagryadskiy, press secretary of the Association of Russian Banks, "the problem of redemption of the credits given by commercial banks in 1994 under government guarantees to enterprises of the agroindustrial sector, consumers' cooperative societies, and for the delivery of goods to the Far North was also discussed."

Calls For Fiscal Discipline

MK1711081895 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 16 Nov 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Chernomyrdin Has Forbidden Ministers To Help Themselves to 'Black Bank'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin ordered that financial discipline of managerial staff at ministries and federal departments be strengthened.

As MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has learned, the premier has forbidden all staffers of ministries and departments to use extrabudgetary funds for salaries and social payments (material aid, etc.).

These funds have lately become a kind of a "black bank" for state servants. Nearly every ministry has such a fund to place money for licensing the activities under its jurisdiction. For instance, the Fuel and Energy Ministry has a fund for money received for the licensing of methods to refine and transport oil. The Federal Securities Commission channels to its extrabudgetary fund 2 percent of all deals with securities. The Culture Ministry is licensing the work of libraries, theaters, and other cultural institutions.

In this way, heads of ministries and departments obtain funds to pay elevated salaries (in the form of material aid) to its central staffers. Moreover, on several occasions, when there were delays in money transfers from the Finance Ministry, ministers paid salaries to their staffers from "ministerial funds." Now the premier has forbidden to give material pseudoaid from extrabudgetary sources.

In addition, Viktor Chernomyrdin instructed the Finance Ministry to allocate money for salaries to federal agencies of the executive branch in due time. The ministers from now on are to ensure a frugal use of salary funds.

Dubinin Views Plans for Central Bank if Appointed

MK1611142295 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 16 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Olga Romanova: "Sergey Dubinin Intends to Preserve Continuity of Central Bank Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sergey Dubinin, unanimously recommended yesterday for the position of Central Bank chairman by the Duma budget, taxes, banks, and finances committee, stated that, with the "Imperial" bank and "Gazprom" concern work experience behind him, he has a fresh view of the problems faced by the economic entities when they try to adjust to terms dictated by the authorities. While in the past he "realized, from the point of view of theory and common sense that it is wrong to command, now the fact has been confirmed in practice."

Sergey Dubinin does not intend to make any "sharp turns" in his possible new position, just like the current acting chairman Aleksandr Khandruyev. Mr. Dubinin confirmed that, if his candidacy is approved, he will preserve continuity of the Central Bank's policy, including personnel matters, coordination of work with the bodies of power, the search for interaction with the banking sector, and greater openness of the Central Bank.

The Central Bank's work should be spearheaded at creating a strong banking system with more than one financial center and promoting the development of regional banks. Sergey Dubinin does not share the view

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that there are too many banks in Russia: "There can be no plan to cut on the number of banks." As for specialization of banks, Mr. Dubinin is rather cautious about attempts to separate from the banking community the category of investment banks. He feels that under the present conditions, it is impossible to make banks engage in investment, and the operation of all-purpose banks should be fine-tuned.

Sergey Dubinin, nevertheless, thinks that while the Central Bank's chosen policy is undoubtedly correct, the methods of implementing it need to be modified: "Some things could have been done in a more subtle way or not done at all; for example, the procedure for reserving funds to repay loans should not have been brought in retroactively." Mr. Dubinin expressed confidence that, as regards reservation policy, it should be first of all clearly decided against what assets reserves should be formed, their "differentiation being possible depending on the bank's type of activity — this is the most incautious thing that I am prepared to say."

According to SEGODNYA's information, the parliament's lower house intends to consider the candidacy of Sergey Dubinin for the post of Central Bank chairman on Wednesday, 22 November.

Ready To Work With Government Bodies

LD1711000295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 16 (Interfax) — Candidate to the post of Central Bank chairman Sergey Dubinin is determined to coordinate his efforts and cooperate with all government bodies, not only federal.

At a Thursday meeting with the Duma Communist faction he said he is consulting different Duma groups in the hope of winning the confidence of deputies in the decisive voting.

"My success requires trust in the principles of my work," Dubinin stressed. In his opinion, the law on the Central Bank, banking and the securities market is a good foundation for the operation of the Central Bank.

Asked whether he would be able to work with a cabinet of a different political orientation Dubinin said he can work with any party government, "if it is a normal government with normal economic objectives benefitting the country." If the cabinet does not take any reasonable steps, Dubinin is ready to resign.

He spoke for "clear contacts" between the Central Bank and commercial banks in Moscow and in the provinces and even the formation of a special cooperation committee.

Dubinin stressed the need for a network of regional banks that would conduct transactions regarded as unprofitable by leading financial institutions in Moscow. However, this calls for the development of separate regulations and controls.

Responding to a comment that Russia has too many commercial banks, Dubinin said, "There must be no plan to axe banks. But there are few good banks in Russia now and many bad ones."

He did not think that the absence of experience of working at the Central Bank could hinder his work as bank chairman and reminded his listeners that in Soviet times all chief bankers, except Viktor Gerashchenko, came from the Finance Ministry.

Asked about Black Tuesday, when in October 1994 the acting finance minister was dismissed after a radical fall of the ruble, Dubinin said the presidential decision was politically justified but added that the Federal Security Service investigation did not find the acting minister responsible for the crisis. "If we have a market economy, we must be ready for such crises," he added.

He said the president did not offer him the post of an acting chairman of the Central Bank and promised to resign from his previous position at Gazprom corporation immediately after the Duma voting. "I have already been an 'acting' minister and it cost me great strain to be regarded as minister," he said.

'No Reaction' in Financial Markets to Dubinin Nomination

LD1711000195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 16 (FIA-Interfax) — There has been practically no reaction on Russian financial markets to the nomination of Sergey Dubinin as the new Central Bank head.

An express poll of traders has showed that any outcome of the Duma vote on Dubinin's candidacy will not affect the results of trading in treasury bills or Taiga bonds. Experts say that the outcome of current talks between Russia and creditor countries will have a bigger effect on the Taiga bonds market.

The nomination did not affect the interbank credit market either, say its major dealers (Kredit-Moskva, Promradtekhbank, Elbim-bank). The Wednesday deficit of ruble reserves was not caused by political reasons, they said.

According to currency traders, the nomination had practically no effect on foreign exchange quotations. They believe that the stability of the dollar rate on the

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non-exchange market Wednesday could have owed to a Central Bank intervention which filled the market with necessary currency resources.

However, dealers do not rule out that the situation on the market may change if Dubinin is approved as Central Bank chairman. The bank retains strong influence on the currency market.

The situation on the Russian stock market has remained stable over the last few days as well. "Personnel changes at the Central Bank were not unexpected by the market, which is why it did not react to the nomination of Dubinin," said dealers.

Consumer Prices Continue To Rise in Early Nov

MM1611140595 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Nov 95 p 3

[Report "based on figures provided by Russian Federation Government Center for the Economic Situation": Prices For the Week of 30 October-8 November. Land of Plenty at Last"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The overall inflation index stood at 101.3 percent, or 217.2 since the beginning of the year.

Prices of food, nonfood commodities, and paid consumer services rose by 1.1, 1, and 2.8 percent respectively.

In early November food prices rose by 1.1 percent on average. But egg prices began to rise rapidly — 4.6 percent in a week. This process is accompanied by shortages, so in Moscow eggs are having to be hunted out. Another trend has also emerged — a sharp rise in the price of dairy produce. The price of milk and sour-milk produce has risen by 3.5 and 3 percent on average. Prices of flour, groats, and pulses have risen by 2.1-2.2 percent in this period, while prices of bread and bakery products and fruit and vegetables have risen by 1.7 percent. At the same time prices of meat products, vegetable oil, cheese, and sugar remained virtually unchanged.

Food prices rose most — by 1.6 percent — in the Central and Volga-Vyatka Regions. Food prices in the East Siberian and Far East Regions rose less than in other regions — by 0.6 percent.

The average cost of the basket of 19 most important foods is now 215,000 rubles [R] per month. It should be noted that the price of the basket has doubled since the beginning of the year.

In Moscow and St. Petersburg the basket of foods costs R257,000 and R214,000 respectively. In terms of cost Moscow remains in 14th place while St. Petersburg has moved from 37th to 34th place.

Fuel prices once again rose most out of nonfood commodities — by 2.7 percent. Peat and firewood prices rose by 4 and 3 percent respectively. Prices of Russian-style cigarettes are still rising. The demand for them is higher than ever. Winter is near at hand, and the price of warm clothing and fur goods has risen — by 2 percent. While prices of rugs and bicycles have not.

Over the last six weeks there has been a trend for the discrepancy between the prices of the same nonfood goods in different Russian cities to diminish. Thus in October and early November the price difference dropped for half the reported goods, while it remained at its former level for one-third, and only one in six reported goods saw the price discrepancy rise. Differ es in the prices of clothing, knitwear, footwear, and electrical goods are mainly declining.

Thus, since late September the ratio of prices of women's mixed-fiber jackets in different Russian cities has fallen from 13:1 to 10:1. That is due to an increase in the cost in Makhachkala from R54,000 to R250,000 (or 360 percent) while the maximum price of the jackets remained unchanged (R734,000 in Chita). In this period the price of children's thermal-lined boots in Izhevsk rose from R40,000 to R101,000 (150 percent), and now the ratio between the highest and lowest prices of these goods in Russia's cities is 2.8:1 as opposed to 4.8:1 in late September. In Yakutsk, where these boots cost the most in Russia at R168,000 a pair, prices have risen 11 percent in this period.

It is only certain construction materials and furniture that are not [as published] recording an increasing price discrepancy.

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International Affairs

Kuchma on CIS Session, Talks With Chernomyrdin

AU1611132395 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 11 Nov 95 p 2

[URYADOVYY KURYER report: "Ye. Marchuk: 'We Proceeded From Ukraine's Interests'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At a Cabinet of Ministers meeting, Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk briefed members of the government on the conference of the CIS heads of state and on his meeting with Viktor Chernomyrdin, head of the Russian Government.

The premier said that more than 20 draft accords had been put forward at the session of the heads of government. The accord on pursuing a coordinated policy in the sphere of natural gas transit has a great significance for Ukraine's national economy. The accord sets single "rules of the game" for all countries involved. Ukraine introduced one amendment to the draft accord.

The accord on creating a common scientific and technological area for CIS member states is also important. It was proposed in Almaty at the initiative of the Ukrainian president. The accord had been amended and was adopted taking into account some of the Ukrainian suggestions.

An accord on single commodity nomenclature in the external economic activity was signed, although Ukraine had introduced substantive amendments to it.

The memorandum and accord on principles of interaction and cooperation in the sphere of civil aviation are also of great significance for us.

In general, Ukraine introduced various amendments to documents that were discussed, mainly proceeding from the fact that no structures within the framework of the CIS or the International Economic Committee should acquire any indications (not even in the future) of suprastate significance or suprastate functions, stressed Ye. Marchuk. On this point, Uzbekistan, Armenia, and some other countries quite actively supported Ukraine.

Ukraine also adopted an accord on cooperation in training and advance training of military personnel for Border Troops. Many CIS countries intend to train their border guards at our educational institutions. This is advantageous for us, because of the corresponding payments we will receive.

Ukraine also signed, with certain reservations, an accord on organizing the activity of an interstate coordination center for commemorating defenders of the fatherland. Not a single international center can coordinate the activity of CIS countries' bodies — the way the draft accord initially read — we amended this, pointed out Ye. Marchuk, and the rest agreed with us in principle.

Regarding accords dealing with collective security, the Ukrainian delegation did not consider them since Ukraine does not take part in this sphere of activity.

Nor did we sign the accord on working out the concept of the status of the CIS Court. As one of the prime ministers said, in accordance with the formulation, this court acquires powers of the USSR Supreme Court and Arbitration Court.

The sides discussed, as a separate issue, prospects for creating a Customs Union. Documents on its joining by Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan were drafted.

Nobody, including Ukraine, denied that a customs union is necessary for those countries that join it. However, opinions differed as to the time frame for organizing it and conditions on which particular states would join such a union.

We believe, pointed out Ye. Marchuk, that it is necessary to make an extremely accurate assessment and also proceed to this venture through creating free-trade regulations between the states.

Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov conducted a rather fruitful working meeting with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

One day prior to the session of the heads of governments, the Ukrainian prime minister held a rather long and substantive working meeting with Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin. They discussed a wide range of our relations and prospects for their further development. They also dealt with the idea of creating a joint Ukrainian-Russian commission presided over by the heads of state, a commission that would monitor the course of implementation of the accords that have been signed and would follow matters associated with these accords so that our cooperation would be more efficient.

A rather important agreement was reached to the effect that political considerations will not affect the problem of Ukraine's provision with energy sources. Problems of the Black Sea Fleet were also touched upon. It was agreed that our governmental expert commissions will meet in the near future and will continue work on documents, proposed by Ukraine. According to V. Chernomyrdin, the Russian side prepared some serious compromise, but the details will be discussed at the commission's meeting. The Ukrainian prime minister put forward a proposal that the Black Sea Fleet problem be addressed separately from those of Ukrainian-Russian relations in general, largely in the

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context of a general political agreement. As the head of the Russian Government put it, he will consider this proposal.

Kuchma: Black Sea Fleet Will Never Leave Sevastopol

LD1611144595 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1340 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Ukraine will never agree to its navy leaving Sevastopol, which Russia is insisting on, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said on 16 November at a meeting with students of the institute for improving personnel qualifications of the Ukrainian Academy of State Management when describing the Black Sea Fleet problem.

In the Ukrainian president's opinion, Russia has been and remains a priority partner for Ukraine. However, Kuchma believes, this should means "moving toward one another." The president categorically disagrees with Russia's policies, which "put its own interests above those of its neighbors."

He is convinced that the treaty on a customs unions is also unacceptable to Ukraine right now; Kuchma believes that if Ukraine were to open its borders completely now, then "Russian capital would crush Ukraine." According to the Ukrainian president, a customs union would only make sense if there is a unified pricing policy between the states.

Dispute Still Hampers Kiev-Moscow Ties

LD1611210895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1741 GMT 16 Nov 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Anna Kovalyova, Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Boris Yunanov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Leonid Kuchma on Thursday said it made no sense to raise the question of a Kiev-Moscow strategic partnership until the dispute over the Black Sea Fleet and status of Sevastopol had been resolved.

In a speech to regional administrators in Kiev, he said there could be no question of strategic partnership between the two countries failing to live in peace even in one city meaning Sevastopol which Ukraine would never give up.

He accused the BSF command of defaulting on one year's rent to Sevastopol though Kiev went out of its way to set conditions for the functioning of the Russian Fleet. Kuchma said that Russia could help improve living conditions for BSF servicemen by paying for the upkeep of the Fleet. IF NOTE: The BSF issue will dominate the agenda of a new two-day round of talks between the Russian and Ukrainian defense chiefs opening in Sochi on November 23.

Kiev insists the Russian and Ukrainian fleets be based in separate ports, but the Ukrainian naval command and headquarters be deployed in Sevastopol.

On the economic front, Kuchma said the Ukrainian economy was dependent on relations with Moscow by more than 50%. He said Kiev was seeing the Russian market as a priority though calling for integration into the West.

On the state of relations with Moscow, Kuchma stressed the need for a two-way traffic accusing Russia of putting its own interests above its neighbors'. He said such a policy could lead to a distancing of other CIS states from Moscow.

On the CIS customs union, Kuchma said it would threaten Ukraine's interests such as the union was now because Russian capital would strangle local business if the customs barriers were removed. He said the idea of a common customs space would make sense if there was a common price policy too.

Kuchma announced planning a cabinet shake up next week though the choice was limited.

He also announced impending cuts in government staff, particularly in higher echelons.

On relations between the government and National Bank, the president complained that the NBU had now become a state within a state and totally independent. He gave assurances of not meddling in NBU activities though saying the government would pursue its policy in the Bank via its own representatives. Kuchma also unveiled plans of establishing one other state bank to handle government money.

Marchuk Calls Fleet 'Political Problem'

LD1611174495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1359 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Nov 17 (Interfax-Ukraine) — The Black Sea Fleet is by and large a political problem, Ukraine's Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk declared in an exclusive interview with Interfax Wednesday night, adding that "the problem of Sevastopol and terms for Russia's lease of naval facilities in Ukraine" remain obstacles to a settlement.

The Russian and Ukrainian Economics Ministries have already agreed how much Russia is to pay for the lease of the facilities, for the land on which they stand and on what terms the aquatic zones will be used.

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"But everything will depend on the problem of Sevastopol," he stressed.

Russian Ambassador Calls Relations 'Complicated'

LD1611215395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1750 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kharkov, November 16 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Russia's Ambassador to Ukraine Leonid Smoliakov [last name as received] has described Ukrainian-Russian relations as "the world's most complicated bilateral relations".

Russia is "overpacked" with problems in her relations with Ukraine, Ambassador Smoliakov stressed at the meeting with Oleksandr Maselskiy, head of the Kharkov regional administration.

The Russian Government has addressed Ukraine's Foreign Ministry for opening in Kharkov and Simferopol of polling stations "to facilitate for Russian citizens resident in Ukraine their participation in the elections". Yet, he stressed, no official answer has so far come to this request.

On top of it, Smoliakov said, Russia intends to pose very seriously the question of opening Russian consulate general in Kharkov.

The Russian Government has taken a decision to this effect, yet, as Smoliakov noted, "we cannot thus far get a positive answer because of red tape".

Smoliakov attended the inauguration of the 39-th channel in Kharkov TV, due to which the population of the region will now have the opportunity to watch ORT (Public Russian Television) programs in full.

As the Ambassador told newsmen, Kharkov is now Ukraine's first city to have secured for itself such an opportunity.

The Russian Ambassador has also discussed with the leading officials of the city and region questions pertaining to the opening in Kharkov of consulate general as well as a polling station for elections to the Russian State Duma.

On the instructions of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Smoliakov has also delivered a bonus to the widow of Koshkin, the designer of the T-34 tank, on the occasion of the 55-th anniversary of his death.

Hearings Against Russian Community of Sevastopol Resume

LD1611203795 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1530 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sevastopol, 15 Nov — Proceedings resumed at the Leninskiy district court in Sevastopol in the case against the Russian community of Sevastopol, following a motion by city prosecutor Ivan Bernidubov to disband the organization and close its newspaper. The case went to court on 30 October.

Close to 100 people carrying Russian flags and signs in support of the Russian community gathered by the court house demanding the dismissal of the case.

The organization's attorney Boris Kuznetsov objected to the hearings being held at a Ukrainian court, arguing that Sevastopol was a Russian territory.

Parliament Discusses Joining CIS Assembly

LD1711130795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1127 GMT 17 Nov 95

[By Mikhail Melnik, Raisa Stetsyura]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV November 17 (Itar-Tass) — Political gossip and insinuations about the questionability of Ukraine's membership in the CIS Parliamentary Assembly are out of place. Membership in the assembly will help Ukraine resolve problems connected with Chernobyl, ecology, deported nations, pensions, as well as a number of other crucial problems, Deputy Speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament Oleg Demin said at its session today. He rejected speculations that if Ukraine joined the Parliamentary Assembly, Ukrainian soldiers would take part in armed conflicts on the territory of Russia.

Demin said that Ukraine was already a member of 57 out of 74 CIS bodies. Advocating the joining of the agreement on the Interparlimentary Assembly by the Ukrainian parliament, he remarked that all its documents were nothing but recommendations. If Ukraine becomes a full member of the assembly, it is going to uphold its national interests, in the first place.

A plenary session of the Ukrainian parliament, held on Thursday, which also discussed that problem in a most emphatic way, ended with a fight between the right-wing and left-wing legislators. Today a final decision was not taken either. National democrats, who oppose the joining of the agreement on the Parliamentary Assembly by the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, did not get registered before the beginning of the session, although they were present in the conference hall. This is why there was no quorum at the session.

Appeals of Speaker Oleksandr Moroz had no effect on the legislators. "We shall have to get back to the discussion of this issue anyway," the speaker said.

Most probably, the Ukrainian parliament will discuss the problem in December.

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Further on Parliament Debate

LD1711160695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1439 GMT 17 Nov 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Nov 17 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Because of a lack of a quorum, the Verkhovna Rada [Supreme Council] has returned at its session on Thursday to the issue of Ukraine's accession to the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (CIS IPA).

No decision has been taken on the issue, and deputies split for meetings at parliamentary groups and committees, an Interfax-Ukraine correspondent reported.

The lack of a quorum was a result of Derzhavnist, Popular Rukh and Reforms groups' refusal to register themselves.

Deputy Parliament Speaker Oleh Demin addressed the lawmakers to speak out in favor of Ukraine's accession to the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly as a step meeting her national interests.

O. Demin described the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly as a "democratic and liberal structure", whose decisions, to be made by a consensus, are in the nature of "recommendations".

He also expressed the view that the issue of Ukraine's accession to the CIS IPA should not be linked to Boris Yeltsin's visit to Kiev.

Ministers Oppose Joining Assembly

LD1611223195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 16 Nov 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Nov 16 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Ukrainian foreign, justice, foreign economic relations and trade ministers have spoken against Ukraine joining the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly.

In a letter to the Ukrainian parliament, which will debate the issue Thursday, the ministers said that it is necessary to preserve the Ukraine's current status as an observer at the Assembly and that the country must sign neither the agreement nor the convention on the Assembly because it would contradict Ukrainian laws and national interests.

An analysis of all the documents regulating the status and the activities of the Assembly shows that the process of turning the Assembly from a consultative into a supra-national body is under way, reads the letter.

An Interfax-Ukraine correspondent reports that during parliamentary debates on joining the Assembly, right-wing deputies filibustered representatives of left-wing factions. Oleksandr Tkachenko, who presided over the session, had to announce a break because of a clash between the deputies.

Ashgabat, Kiev Reach Initial Accord on Gas Supply

LD1611164195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1359 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ASHGABAT, Nov 16 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Pavel Nazarenko and President Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan ended talks in Ashgabat on Wednesday by reaching preliminary agreement on gas supply to Ukraine as well as terms of payment, Lazarenko's aide Mikhail Golyshev told Interfax-Ukraine.

Official talks which started later in the day are expected to continue on Thursday. The two sides are to sign agreements on Ukrainian involvement in a Turkmen railway project and training of Turkmen military experts in Ukraine.

Also discussed was the pace of laying down a gas pipeline from Kazanzhik to Kizilarvat, a construction project involving 50 Ukrainian experts. The cost of work done is estimated at $23 million with $10 million of this amount paid for earlier gas supply to Ukraine.

Pakistan To Purchase Arms From Ukraine

MM1711103695 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Nov 95 p 3

[Report from "own information" and ITAR-TASS column: "Ukrainian T-72 Sold to Pakistan?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan is acquiring from Ukraine a large consignment of modern weapons including tanks, fighter aircraft, and warships.

The Indian news agency UNI has reported that the multimillion deal for the delivery of Ukrainian arms to Pakistan figured at the talks held in Islamabad by Ukrainian Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov, who was there on an official visit back in September. It has now become known that at the meeting between the head of the Ukrainian military department and Pakistani Defense Minister Aftab Shabhan Mirani there was a discussion of questions of the sale of 300 T-72 tanks of the latest modifications at a price of $600,000 each. The list of weapons which Ukraine could sell to Pakistan also included 152-mm self-propelling howitzers and infantry combat vehicles. The Pakistani representatives have also shown particular interest in buying 30 Ukrainian MIG-29 fighters which have been modernized and fitted with new on-board radar.

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Chinese Ambassador Hopeful for Kuchma's Visit

LD1611224195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 16 Nov 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Nov 16 (Interfax - Ukraine) — The Chinese Ambassador to Kiev hopes the December visit of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma to Beijing will be very successful and give an impetus to bilateral relations.

Pan Zhanlin told a Thursday news conference at the embassy that China is Ukraine's second biggest trade partner and Ukraine the second biggest partner for China among East European and CIS countries.

Among problems in bilateral relations the ambassador named the lack of balance in trade. Chinese imports constituted $500 million out of the $827 million trade turnover in 1994.

Deputies Discuss Engineering, Military Ties

WS1711094995 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0832 GMT 17 Nov 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As reported by UKRINFORM's parliamentary correspondent, Ukraine and China are continuing to look for new opportunities for broadening mutual relations. This was disclosed at the meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Group for Relations With China which took place on November 15 at the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada [Supreme Council]. The meeting was attended by Ukrainian parliamentarians who are members of the inter-parliamentary group, representatives of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers, senior officials of several Ukrainian ministries, departments, and enterprises. The meeting analyzed and discussed mutual relations between Ukraine and China in the sphere of engineering and military-industrial complex. Attention was also paid to perfection of the two countries' legislation involving those sectors.

In an interview with journalists, the chairman of the inter-parliamentary group, Mykhaylo Pavlovskyy, stressed the necessity for discussion of the issues which, to a large extent, influence the progress of relations between the two countries. He added that it was pointless to hope for further development of relations between the two countries without resolving a series of problems such as coordination of the two countries' legislation, avoidance of dual taxation, as well as problems involving investment. He disclosed that such issues were discussed at the meeting of the inter- parliamentary group.

The Chinese Ambassador to Ukraine, Pan Zhanlin, who also took part in the meeting, stressed the importance of creation of such a commission in the Ukrainian parliament. He added that a similar commission is in the process of formation in the Chinese parliament. As the Chinese Ambassador further disclosed, preparations are currently underway for a visit to China by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma early next month. According to him, the Ukrainian president will have a good opportunity to familiarize himself with Beijing and other regions of China. He added that important documents that will facilitate further development of Sino-Ukrainian relations will be signed during the visit. Mr. Zhanlin said that Ukraine could consider China as a bridge to other Asian countries as well as the countries of the Pacific basin.

Ukrainian Peacekeepers Withdraw From Croatia

LD1611231995 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukraine's 60th special battalion which took part in the UN peacekeeping operations in former Yugoslavia has been withdrawn from Croatia. The last group of servicemen flew home from Zagreb on a Ukrainian air force plane on 15 November, the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense reports.

National Affairs

Kuchma on Constitution, Relations With Russia

LD1611194595 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1530 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — In a speech to students of the institute for management qualifications, Leonid Kuchma noted that the Ukrainian constitutional commission would receive the draft new constitution next week. In this draft the future state will be defined as a presidential-parliamentary republic. Leonid Kuchma believes that the only way to approve Ukraine's new constitution is by means of a referendum. "I am categorically against convening a constitutional assembly as a structure to approve the new constitution," the Ukrainian president noted. In Leonid Kuchma's opinion, there is a danger that the constitutional assembly could turn into a parallel parliament.

At this sitting Leonid Kuchma touched on the state of Russian-Ukrainian relations. In the Ukrainian president's opinion, the future fate of Ukraine's statehood depends more than 50 percent on whether we lose the Russian market now. But, Leonid Kuchma noted, the customs union in the form which Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan have signed up for, does not suit Ukraine's current conditions. Leonid Kuchma noted that Russia

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had proposed that Kazakhstan and Belarus bring their legislation in line with Russian legislation within a year in order to operate within the bounds of the customs union. Leonid Kuchma noted that such a condition would be utterly absurd for Ukraine.

The president also touched on the problem of open borders between Ukraine and Russia. Leonid Kuchma believes that it would be impossible to do this now because Russian capital is considerably stronger than Ukrainian capital. If it is allowed onto the Ukrainian market, then there will be practically no grounds for the normal development of Ukrainian capital.

At the sitting Leonid Kuchma touched on the issue of the activity of the Ukrainian banking system. In the president's opinion, there should be work in the following directions:

1. creating the concept of a Ukrainian state bank;

2. remaking a mechanism for relations between the state and the Ukrainian National Bank.

"Today the Ukrainian National Bank is a state within a state. And this is inadmissible. The Supreme Council has been practically deprived of levers to influence the National Bank. It only approves its accounts," Leonid Kuchma noted.

Leonid Kuchma touched on the situation, which has emerged in Ukraine's agro-industrial complex. "I am deeply convinced that Ukraine's establishment as a state should occur through raising the level of agricultural production. But in order for this to happen, rural areas have to have a master," the president said.

Constitution 'Tombstone for Soviet Power'

LD1711155195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1420 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Nov 17 (Interfax-Ukraine) — A new Ukrainian Constitution will be the tombstone for Soviet power in the republic, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma told an exclusive interview with Interfax-Ukraine.

A draft constitution submitted to the Constitutional Commission last Wednesday provides for a two-chamber parliament. In the words of Kuchma, he supported this idea with pleasure because two parliament chambers will serve as a counter-balance in the legislative system.

The draft says that the nomination of prime minister shall be confirmed by the parliament. In an earlier draft the president appointed the government head. "It was my idea to abandon the Premier's appointment by the President," said Kuchma.

He stressed the need for maximum economic independence of regions, but said any political independence is out of the question. "We must learn a lesson from Crimean autonomy, and this lesson is not positive," said Kuchma.

Kuchma Announces Cabinet To Be Reshuffled

LD1611205795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1750 GMT 16 Nov 95

[INTERFAX]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, November 16 (Interfax-Ukraine) — A Ukrainian Cabinet reshuffle is to be started on Monday [date not given], President Leonid Kuchma pointed out addressing the heads of district state administrations at the Management Academy in Kiev on Thursday .

He called for a "rigid approach in pursuing the personnel selection and placing policy," but at the same time noted that "the reserve players' bench in the government is a very short one."

The President also said that a reduction of the managerial personnel, "above all at the top level" is to be carried out soon.

Touching upon the relations between the government and the National Bank, he said that the National Bank is today "a state within a state" and is not "subordinated to anyone."

The government, he said, is not going to interfere in the activities of the National Bank, yet it intends "to pursue a state policy at the Bank of Ukraine" through its representations.

According to President Kuchma, the issue is being currently "seriously studied" of setting up one more state bank, "through which the government money could be circulated."

Speaker, Deputies Oppose Bicameral Parliament

LD1611211295 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1630 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Ukraine's Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz has spoken against the introduction of a bicameral parliament in Ukraine, as proposed in the new draft constitution, Moroz told UNIAN on 16 November.

He said that, at present, a two-house parliament would "slow down the legislative process and weaken the legislative branch."

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Earlier, one of the authors of the constitutional treaty between the parliament and the president, deputy Oleksandr Lavrynovych, expressed a similar view, adding that the formation of a bicameral parliament "would make sense had Ukraine chosen a strategic course toward deregulation or federalization."

A senior socialist deputy, Volodymyr Marchenko, stressed that a bicameral parliament would "diminish the role of the legislature in the state and split the legislative structure."

Defending the proposal, deputy head of the presidential administration Leonid Pidpalov said a two-house structure would enable the parliament to "fulfill its legislative functions in a more professional way."

Parliament To 'Hasten' Adoption of Constitution

LD1611165595 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1340 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Ukraine's new constitution may be adopted by March 1996, and parliament will do everything to hasten this, Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz said on 16 November. He was addressing students of the institute for improving personnel qualifications of Ukraine's Academy of State Management.

In his opinion, the basis for organizing state management should be the principle of division of powers.

According to Oleksandr Moroz, the lack of such a division now is explained by subjective reasons, in particular, political ones. In his opinion, the president and parliament should be one political force.

Describing the draft new constitution, Oleksandr Moroz noted that "the form of state management is not at issue, but the delimitation of powers between the various branches of authority." In his opinion, Ukraine's legal field should be regulated by the legislative body.

Oleksandr Moroz said the organization of local authority was the weakest element of the draft new constitution.

Brawl Erupts as Parliament Debates CIS Assembly

WS1711104795 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0407 GMT 17 Nov 95

[Report by Oksana Hasiuk]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Nov 16 — Blood was shed in Parliament on Thursday [16 November] during the consideration of issue of Ukraine's joining the CIS Parliamentary Assembly.

The bloodshed ensued after deputies from Rukh, Statehood and Reforms parliamentary groups tried to block the parliamentary floor, forbidding leftists deputies to talk on the issue of CIS Parliamentary Assembly.

Ukrainian television viewers were treated to a spectacle as Rukh Deputy Andriy Zarudniy, having injured his hand during the fight, wiped blood on the shirt of First Deputy Speaker Oleksandr Tkachenko.

Tkachenko chaired the session while Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz was delivering a speech to heads of local administration on Thursday afternoon.

Leftists insisting on Ukraine's joining the CIS Parliament Assembly said that CIS countries, especially Russia, are Ukraine's main partners.

The issue of CIS Parliamentary Assembly was initiated in Parliament by Deputy Parliament Speaker Oleh Diomin, deputies Yuriy Boldyriev and Yevhen Marmazov. All are currently working in the assembly, where Ukraine has associative membership.

According to Borys Oliynyk, who heads the parliamentary Foreign Affairs and CIS Ties Committee, said the majority in his committee was opposed to Ukraine's joining the CIS Parliamentary Assembly.

But, Oliynyk said, "foreign policy is a field for compromise." According to Oliynyk, "we are going to the CIS Parliamentary Assembly by ourselves and we will choose the style of our behavior."

Justice Minister Serhiy Holovatiy and Foreign Trade Minister Serhiy Osyka sent letters to deputies on Thursday in which they say joining the assembly would be dangerous for Ukraine.

Deputies did not pass any decision on Thursday, because national- democrats refused to register, protesting against consideration of the issue in Parliament.

According to a source in the Parliament Presidium, the council of parliamentary groups and factions decided on Thursday that the issue will be discussed on Friday and then sent back to the committee for further work.

Government Seeks Cooperation With Parliament

LD1711160195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1439 GMT 17 Nov 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Nov 17 (Interfax-Ukraine) — The Ukrainian government regards cooperation with the legislative authority to be the most important prerequisite for a successful implementation of its programme, Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk said in Kiev on Friday, addressing refresher course students of local administrations.

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Among the ways of cooperation between executive and legislative authorities the Premier listed regular holding of Government Days at Verkhovna Rada [Supreme Council] and weekly meetings between Cabinet officials and leaders of all parliamentary groups.

"I am far from idealizing the outcome of such work, since serious problems crop up from excessive politicizing practices," the Premier said. At the same time, he underscored the significance of such meetings for ensuring identical viewpoints.

Marchuk also disclosed that Parliament and Cabinet Presidiums will hold joint meetings, citing as an example the next one scheduled for Monday, November 20, to deal with the 1996 budget and specification of issues of principle pertaining to legislative support of the government programme.

According to Ye. Marchuk, each of Vice-Premiers is now in charge of cooperation with the standing parliamentary committees concerned.

A new post — Deputy Cabinet Minister in Charge of Coordination of Work with Parliament — is to be introduced into the Cabinet structure, the Prime Minister disclosed.

Another post of Deputy Minister will also be introduced in a number of key ministries to deal with legislative proposals in corresponding sectors, Marchuk said, explaining that this was necessitated by the "conservative and inert" character of the present-day mechanisms of legislative initiative.

"There is nothing sensational in all of these mechanisms. The point at issue is the development of cooperation between branches of power in a tough and difficult period," the Premier said. Such cooperation is by no means evidence that "we are too much willing compromises". Despite "heated discussions", "compromises are always or almost always possible," Ye. Marchuk underscored.

Government Uses 'Legal Loophole' To Pay Miners

WS1711105995 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0407 GMT 17 Nov 95

[By Oksana Hasiuk, Olha Burda, and Ed Zwirn "Special to INTELNEWS"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Nov 16 — Ukraine's government took advantage of a legal loophole to find the money needed to calm angry miners threatening a nationwide strike in pursuit of more than US$ 100 million in back pay.

Although a parliamentary veto was supposed to put an end to a September decree by President Leonid Kuchma creating a special fund using tax revenues to pay off Ukraine's energy debt, Parliament leaders admitted that their secretariat neglected to publish the veto in their official Holos Ukrainy newspaper — a move necessary if a measure is to attain the force of law.

As a result of the liberal dispensation of money that occurred this week, the strike by the Ukrainian Independent Miners Trade Union (UIMTU) has considerably lost momentum since it began Tuesday.

As of Wednesday, only 13 of the UIMTU's 64 mines were completely out of action, while an additional four were either maintaining partial work stoppages or were refusing to ship coal. The strike began with a complete halt to the operation of 25 of the country's 256 mines.

Meanwhile, Parliament has closed the loophole, publishing the veto on Wednesday and passing a special resolution on Wednesday ordering the government to adhere to it.

The Kuchma decree, which became active Sept. 15, ordered businesses to cough up 5 percent of their incomes from goods and services to fund Ukraine's burgeoning energy and fuel debts.

A total of 138 deputies appealed to Speaker Oleksandr Moroz on Thursday, saying that businesses were suffering from the measure, which they thought they had earlier nullified.

Viktor Ilyin, head of the State Tax Inspection said on Thursday he sent a letter to local tax inspection services in October to order enforcement of the decree.

"I had no right to not execute presidential decree, because the Parliament resolution vetoing it was not published, which meant it was not in force," said Ilyin.

UIMTU leader Mykhailo Volinets said that the strike is winding down because those miners on strike are receiving all the back pay owed them.

According to Volinets, an "odd thing" is taking place: the government conducts negotiations only with the official trade union — which is not on strike — but is paying money primarily to strikers at UIMTU mines.

According to the Coal Ministry, only eight mines were on strike as of Thursday — a day in which the country failed to extract 6,520 tons of coal.

In other developments, support for Ukraine's miners is widening both on an international and a domestic level as both labor leaders and student unions express support for their plight.

International Miners Federation General Secretary Peter Mikhalchik sent a letter to Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk containing his support for the miners, saying

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that their unpaid salaries constitute a violation of international labor laws.

The General Secretary argued that although Ukraine receives considerable support from the European Union, this has resulted in no improvement in either economic conditions or the plight of workers.

On the domestic front, POSTUP, the Ukrainian student union, has initiated a picket against the Coal Ministry in Kiev.

Students put forward five demands: Coal Minister Viktor Poltavets' resignation, launching of a program of coal industry reformat [as received], giving miners the right to sell coal themselves, lowering price for consumed electricity and immediate heating of institutions of higher education.

Poltavets, however, refused to meet with the students, who met instead for 50 minutes with Deputy Minister Dmytro Herasymchuk.

Herasymchuk emerged from the meeting saying students lacked understanding of the situation and that he had agreed to familiarize them with documents in the ministry for detailed study.

Parliament Abolishes Import Duty Exemptions

LD1611235895 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1630 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — The Supreme Council of Ukraine on 16 November passed a law abolishing benefits and exemptions regarding import, customs, and excise duties and VAT on goods subject to excise duty, brought or sent to Ukraine for sale or personal use by businesses of various nature, including charity funds, public associations, religious organizations, National Bank of Ukraine institutions, and companies with foreign investment. The law takes effect 1 January 1996.

The Supreme Council commissions for financial affairs and banking and for economic policy and management of the national economy were instructed to submit by 10 December a list of legislative acts concerning import, customs and excise duties and VAT, superseded by the new law with regard to goods subject to excise duty.

The government and the president were advised to impose strict control over the full and timely payment of duties.

According to chairman of the Supreme Council Commission for Financial Affairs and Banking Viktor Suslov, existing benefits and exemptions deprived Ukraine of a sizeable source of budget revenue. The State Customs Committee estimated losses from tax breaks in the eight months of 1995 at 140 trillion karbovantsi, equivalent to 42 percent of the current budget deficit. "If duties are paid in full, we may be able to solve the problem of budget deficit," Suslov said.

Prime Minister on Nation's Role in CE, Chernobyl

MK1611140195 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Nov 95 p 1

[Interview with Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk by Aleksandr Bangerskiy: "Ukraine Is Already in Europe. Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk Believes His Country Will Be Useful for the European Community" — in Paris, date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Bangerskiy] Mr. Prime Minister, how do you assess Ukraine's admission to the Council of Europe [CE]?

[Marchuk] Ukraine's joining the CE to a large extent completes the building of the European home that is the dream of all European states. Our membership closes the gap that has existed until now. Through the CE Ukraine enters Europe, having a package of proposals to offer that will also be useful for Europe.

As for Ukraine itself, the admission to the CE is extremely important for us, because our choice of the democratic path of development and the standards of the European Community, the standards of the CE, coincide in this instance. Although we understand that much is yet to be done to harmonize them, especially in the legislative sphere.

Ukraine's admission to the CE for us is further evidence of the recognition of our state as a European democratic state that is evolving, albeit with difficulty, firmly and consistently toward further democratic transformations.

[Bangerskiy] What is the situation with capital punishment in Ukraine?

[Marchuk] Today we are dealing with the political aspects of a moratorium on capital punishment. As for death sentences, at present, as established by the law, these matters are decided by the Supreme Rada. Politically, the question of a moratorium on [death] sentences has already been resolved.

[Bangerskiy] How do you appraise relations between Ukraine and France?

[Marchuk] Our relations received new impetus in the past year. I would even say in the current year. In Strasbourg I have had several meetings that bear this out. I think the French side, especially its business circles, have — maybe somewhat belatedly — realized that Ukraine does not pose any serious dangers to large

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French business. We are creating a favorable investment climate in our state, although we understand that it is still far from perfect.

I think that Ukraine's acceptance for CE membership will contribute to reenergizing Ukrainian-French relations, just as it will to contacts with other European countries.

Even now we have many various projects, and the most pleasant thing is that we have already started working at the level of entrepreneurs, not only state structures. As for the state, it will provide a favorable regime for such activity.

[Bangerskiy] What is your position on the future on the Chernobyl nuclear station?

[Marchuk] The Ukrainian leadership — the president himself and other top leaders — have not once stated that Ukraine is ready to close the Chernobyl nuclear power station before the year 2000. But we have always stressed — at talks with the G-7 and with the European Council — that this is an extremely costly undertaking and that Ukraine will not be able to resolve this problem economically with its own resources. The mere closing of Chernobyl, without addressing all other issues, such as social problems, the burial of radioactive waste, and so forth, can only make the situation more threatening than it is now.

Recently another round of negotiations with G-7 experts completed in Kiev and we hope that its leaders will realize that a pooling of the financial efforts of rich countries is needed to close Chernobyl.

Furthermore, Ukraine has decided to create a new international research center based on the Chernobyl nuclear power station, and we invite all those willing to take part in its work.

Chernobyl Plant Likely To Remain in Operation

LD1611163295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1359 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Nov 16 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Chairman of the Ukrainian parliament's permanent commission for nuclear safety Mikhail Pavlovskiy warned Wednesday that the Chernobyl nuclear power plant will have to be kept in operation if the Western partners do not finance the entire complex of measures to close it down.

He told Interfax-Ukraine that this problem was purely political. He also said that the safety level on the Chernobyl nuclear power plant was the highest in Ukraine and that its personnel were highly professional.

To enhance the world's trust in Ukrainian nuclear power engineering, Ukraine must join the 1960 Vienna convention on responsibility for nuclear accidents and on corresponding compensation for losses. This is the position of the Ukrainian State Committee for Atomic Energy, he said.

"Ukraine must assume such responsibility," said Pavlovskiy. He noted that the joining of the convention would not mean Ukraine would be compensated for the earlier accidents, including the 1986 Chernobyl accident.

In his opinion, the best way would be to accept the variant once proposed by the Ukrainian Committee for Atomic Energy, which provided for the construction of two new nuclear reactors in Chernobyl.

"Applying modern know-how, we might use as fuel the meltdown of the VVER reactors which operate on all other nuclear power plants," said Pavlovskiy.

Zaporozhye Nuclear Plant Sector Resumes Operations

LD1611164595 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1340 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Following 10 days of preventive repairs Zaporozhye nuclear power station's sixth generating set has resumed operations; on 16 November it was reconnected to Ukraine's electricity grid, UNIAN learned at the information center of the Nuclear Regulation Administration of Ukraine's Environment and Nuclear Safety Ministry.

Faults, detected over a month of the set's work, were eliminated by the repairs, in particular, damage to the steam generator, which had caused a slight leakage of radioactive water from the reactor equipment to the turbine equipment, was eliminated.

Work will continue at the generating set in accordance with the program for bringing it up to power, which is a condition for getting permission from the state nuclear power inspectorate for the generating set to work at full power. Zaporozhye nuclear power station does not have this permission as yet.

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Belarus

Minister: Most CFE Treaty Commitments Fulfilled

LD1611164995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1359 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, Nov 16 (Interfax-West) — Belarus has fulfilled 70 percent of its commitments under the CFE treaty.

As the term of the treaty expired Thursday, Foreign Minister Vladimir Senko told a news conference in Minsk that the main reason for not enforcing the treaty in full is the difficult economic situation which made Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka suspend the process of scrapping arms in mid-February 1995.

Senko said NATO countries regarded the problem with understanding, and now Germany, the USA and Britain are studying the possibility of offering Belarus financial assistance.

He said Belarus is not withdrawing from the treaty and plans to complete the destruction of armaments by May 1996.

The minister denied media reports that international organizations intend to boycott the November 29 parliamentary elections in Belarus and will not send observers to Minsk. He said the European parliament, the Council of Europe, the CIS Parliamentary Assembly and some other organizations have voiced readiness to send observers.

According to Senko, the visit of Russian Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets to Belarus, planned for the end of the week, has been postponed for several days.

International Experts Satisfied With Balloon Investigation

LD1711095195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0634 GMT 17 Nov 95

[By Aleksandr Lyushkevich]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK November 17 (Itar-Tass) — Experts of a number of international organisations, who followed the investigation into the case of destruction of a hot air balloon with two balloonists on board by the anti-aircraft defence force of the republic, have expressed satisfaction over a highly professional level of the investigation. It is being conducted under the guidance of Chief of Staff of the Belarusian President Mikhail Myasnikovich.

The experts stated that the investigation was fully in line with standards and rules of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

They praised the performance of the working group for the investigation of the case, which includes specialists from the United States, Germany, the CIS Interstate Aviation Committee and Belarus.

Between November 12 and 15 the working group examined the materials, submitted to it, and a draft report, prepared by the Interstate Aviation Committee. It came to the conclusion that the investigation materials were a good basis for preparing a final report, which would be completed after they receive the results of the medico-biological analyses.

The hot air balloon with two balloonists on board was brought down on September 12 near the town of Beryoza. The anti-aircraft defence force of the republic requested several times the call signals of the flying vehicle coming from the west, but received no answer. Fighter planes took off and destroyed the target. Both balloonists died.

Lukashenka Seen Excluding Professionals From Entourage

WS1711115395 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0730 GMT 17 Nov 95

[Report by Uladzimir Hlod: "President Lukashenka Resorts to Forcing Professionals Out of His Entourage" — from the "Analytical Bulletin" feature No. 57, 8-14 Nov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The resignation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, Uladzimir Syanko, much talked of recently, did not take place. Moreover, President Lukashenka announced that the head of the foreign office would not leave his position. Nevertheless, as people say, there is no smoke without fire. This was indirectly confirmed by the Head of the State himself when he said that the minister has his own, specific, visions of different problems. Meanwhile, it is well known that Alyaksandr Lukashenka simply cannot tolerate in his entourage people with viewpoints different from his own (on any issues). Many observers, therefore, agree with the opinion that the fate of the head of the foreign office is sealed, we just have to sit and wait. In view of this, it is worth noting an aspect which has not yet been seriously considered by political science workers, i.e., the President has resorted to excluding professionals from his entourage. The Chairman of the Board of the National Bank, Stanislaw Bahdankevich, and the Minister for Internal Affairs, Yuryy Zakharenka, first fell victim to this approach. Certainly, these people are very different, but they are united by one quality: they are real professionals. It is precisely this which is not perceived by the 'Father'. At first consideration, this statement may seem absurd, because it is assumed

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that every leader looks for assistants who are high-class experts in their field. This is not the case with the Belarusian President. Due to his character and some personal qualities inherent in people suffering from megalomania, Alyaksandr Lukashenka will stop at nothing to make Belarusians believe that it is only him, the 'people's representative' who solves all problems, from the most important through to the less important.

For the first time I noticed his inclination to take on everything at Mr Lukashenka's first press conference as the Head of the State. I asked him then if any economist, as Balcerowicz in Poland or Gaydar in Russia, would be responsible for the progress of economic reforms. "Why should they?" the surprise of the President was sincere. "There is a President...." Certainly, with such a 'Father', no independent figures are necessary. However, people are not blind and they can see what Bahdankevich was for the country. It was due to him that the exchange rate of the Belarusian ruble stopped on the point of 11,500 rubles for a dollar. This put an end to the tortures of people suffering from a lack of money. The Chairman of the National Bank managed to do the impossible, i.e., he presented the country with a working ruble which had not been even called a ruble, but, contemptuously, a 'hare'.

In a short time the reorganisation of the structure and methods of operation of the law enforcement bodies, which was carried out with tremendous efforts by Yuryy Zakharenka, would have borne fruit. And the intractability of the minister who refused to send students of the militia school to work at the President's dacha benefited the image of the minister, and not that of the President. He could not stand that.

Against the background of such professionals as Bahdankevich, Zakharenka, Chyhir, Syanko and Marynich, the President seems to suffer from a lack of professionalism in himself. I recall another episode from Alyaksandr Lukashenka's press conference held in Moscow when his presidential career was on the rise. I asked the newly elected President about the difference between the expected and the actual state of the Belarusian economy. The answer was in Lukashenka's style: I did not expect such an ultimate collapse. The President has stopped holding press conferences where all journalists would be allowed to be present. But I would like to ask him: What is the difference between your perception of your capacity to govern the state when you ran for presidency and your actual capacities? The President repeatedly said: I want to bring only good to the people. He is undoubtedly sincere, but Stanislaw Bahdankevich wisely noted that the gap between 'wanting' and actually 'being able' is great. Neither Bahdankevich nor Zakharenka, nor any other ministers have made as many promises as has the President. Furthermore, they have managed to do a lot. The president does not have much to be proud of. He just keeps repeating: Under a different President it would be even worse. We are not so sure....

Naturally, when the 'bright stars' disappear from the President's entourage, the Head of the State is seen in a more favourable light. In this aspect Alyaksandr Lukashenka is playing 'on the edge of a precipice'. It is hazardous not to take into consideration such a notion as 'pride'. It must have been difficult for Uladzimir Syanko or Mikhail Marynich to restrain themselves when in a special programme on the National Television the results of their work were assessed not by the President or, at least, the head of his Administration, but by the notorious Ivan Tsitsyankow. Mr Tsitsyankow thoughtfully said that our leading ministries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Economic Affairs, are far from working effectively. There is a natural question: Who is Mr Tsitsyankow to say that? Another question: Who runs the presidential affairs of Boris Yeltsin? Few will give an immediate answer. And the majority of people simply do not know.

Moldova

President Confirms Plans Not To Join NATO

AU1711080395 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1950 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, November 16 (INFOTAG) — Our participation in the Partnership for Peace program does not mean that Moldova is planning to join the North Atlantic Alliance, as claimed by separatist Dniester leaders, President Mircea Snegur stated in the Ministry of Defense today. Mr. Snegur, who is the Supreme Commander in Chief of the Moldovan armed forces, remarked that the National Army also contributed to the country's integration into international structures. It has been developing cooperation with the armed forces of Bulgaria, Turkey, Romania, Ukraine, United States, Russian Federation. Moldova's participation in the Partnership for Peace program includes, first and foremost, assistance in personnel training, consultancies, exchange of experience, and peace keeper operations, the President stressed. As stipulated by the Constitution, Moldova is a neutral state, shall allow for no foreign troops to be deployed on its territory, and cannot enter any military blocs or unions, Snegur said. The Ministry top officials, who took floor at today's collegium, spoke that the Supreme Commander in Chief should act as a co-author in drafting laws related to military issues. The collegium pointed out a certain progress in the National Army development, as well as

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the first graduation of officers from the Alexandru cel Bun Military College. At the same time, Mircea Snegur emphasized the importance of eliminating such drawbacks as low discipline, lack of officers' responsibility for their subordinates, and poor patriotic upbringing of the young generation.

Dniester Leader Smirnov Seeking Aid From Moscow

AU1611124195 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 2100 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol, November 15 (INFOTAG) — The president of the unrecognized Dniester Republic, Igor Smirnov, left for Russia for a short leave last night, his press service has reported. According to our sources in the local administration, Smirnov will stay for several days in a resort near Moscow.

However, the key purpose of his voyage is to negotiate with the Russian Government officials the acute economic problems faced by the breakaway region, including energy supply. The Dniester leader will meet also with the representatives of several State Duma factions who back the separatist republic. Observers believe that Mr. Smirnov would seek to enlist their support for the future, namely after the parliamentary elections in Russia, to be held on 17 December. In Moscow, Smirnov will negotiate cooperation in the financial field. The Tiraspol administration is planning to run all accounts with Russian economic agents through the Stolichniy Bank of Moscow. The Dniester Parliament has already adopted an appropriate decree on currency regulation, which obliges all Dniester economic entities to transfer, before 15 November, their "overseas" accounts to the Stolichniy branch in Tiraspol.

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Tajikistan

Tajikistan Joins CIS Single Customs Union

LD1611140395 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An agreement on Tajikistan's accession to the single customs union, to which the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, and Belarus already belong, has been signed in Moscow. This was announced by the press service of Tajikistan's Ministry of Economy and Foreign Economic Relations. The agreement was signed on the Russian side by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and on the Tajik side by Prime Minister Jamshed Karimov.

Report Claims 200 State Soldiers Killed in Tavildara

LD1611124795 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Tajikistan in Tajik 0600 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports from sources in the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan, on 13 November a clash took place in the village of Lairon in Tavildara District between forces of the Dushanbe regime and mujaheddin of the troops of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan. The mujaheddin, who were in a defensive position, managed to withstand the state regime's attack and succeeded in defeating them. According to the report, an hour after the clash, instead of burying the bodies of three soldiers who were killed as a result of the retaliatory attack by the small group of mujaheddin, the regime's forces fled from the area. There was a report that some government supporters were wounded.

We have not had any other reports about subsequent events from Tavildara. It is necessary to mention that clashes have been continuing in this area since 13 October between mujaheddin of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan's troops and forces loyal to [Tajik President Emomali] Rahmanov's regime. It is said that more than 200 soldiers of the regime have been killed during this period.

The most important event in the latest battles between the mujaheddin of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan's troops and the communist regime's forces is the capture of 54 state officers and soldiers by the mujaheddin.

Turkmenistan

President Dismisses Officials Over Food Shortages

LD1611173495 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 0623 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] From the meeting of the Council of Ministers of Turkmenistan.

Issues relating to provision of food for the population of the country, especially flour products, were the focus of attention at an expanded meeting of the country's Council of Ministers on 7 November. Heads of the relevant ministries and departments, the law enforcement bodies, the regions, [the administration of the capital] Ashgabat, and districts in the capital took part in the meeting.

Summarizing the situation in this sphere, the head of state [Saparmurad Niyazov] criticized sharply the fact that interruptions in the supply of food to the population had been allowed and that, in his words, there was a plan under way to create an artificial shortage of essential goods. He severely criticized the unwarranted passive approach of those responsible and the negative behavior of heads who deliberately hindered direct delivery of goods to the shops.

A. Ishankulov, the director of Ashgabat's bread factory and D. Allanazarov, the manager of this enterprise's depot, were relieved of their posts for serious shortcomings.

Niyazov gave assurances that the government would be paying special attention to ensuring stability in the country's food industry and that the heads of all the relevant departments would be under considerable pressure to implement their immediate duties.

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Azerbaijan

CEC: 'Majority' of Voters Endorsed Constitution

NC1611185895 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 16 Nov 95

[Statement by Central Election Commission — read by announcer; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Election Commission [CEC] hereby states that according to preliminary results, up to 80 percent of the voters participated in the elections to the Milli Mejlis [National Assembly] and in the referendum on Azerbaijan's new constitution on 12 November.

According to the results of the referendum, Azerbaijan's new constitution has been endorsed by the majority of voters.

According to the preliminary reports from the district election commissions, the majority system elections to the Milli Mejlis have taken place in more than 90 percent of the constituencies. Deputies have been elected to the Milli Mejlis in more than 70 percent of these constituencies. Repeat elections will be held in nearly 20 constituencies on 26 November. Repeat elections will also be held in some other constituencies in keeping with the Azerbaijan election law.

The CEC has already adopted a decision to publish the list of 43 elected deputies. There are representatives of the five political parties and independents among the elected deputies.

According to the preliminary information, the Yeni Azerbaycan Partiyasi [New Azerbaijan Party], Azerbaycan Halk Cephesi Partiyasi [Azerbaijan People's Front Party], and Azerbaycan Milli Istiqlal Partiyasi [Azerbaijan National Independence Party] have passed the 8 percent limit in multi-mandate constituencies.

The reports obtained from the district election commissions and the preliminary figures are being ascertained by the CEC. Also, the CEC is continuing to carefully examine appeals and complaints from candidates and their representatives.

Russian Observers Praise 'Well-Organized' Elections

LD1611200895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1551 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, Nov 16 (INTERFAX) — The Russian Federation Council delegation which observed parliamentary elections and a constitutional referendum in Azerbaijan on November 12 said that the vote had been democratic and well-organized and that Azerbaijani laws had not been violated.

The delegation's statement made public in Baku Wednesday evening gives a high assessment to the work of the Azerbaijani Central Electoral Commission and local electoral commissions.

In a difficult situation of a military conflict and economic hardships, President Geydar Aliyev put forth great effort and has truly guaranteed democratic reforms and civil liberties in Azerbaijan, reads the statement signed by Viktor Bulgakov, deputy Federation Council speaker in charge of science, culture and education.

However, a joint mission of observers from the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] and the U.N. said Wednesday that it seriously doubted the democratic nature of the November 12 vote.

Aliyev Receives Departing UN Representative

NC1611192795 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1300 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev today received the UN Permanent Representative in Azerbaijan Mr. Mahmud al-Sa'id, whose term of office ended in our republic and who is returning to his country.

The president expressed satisfaction with the activities of this international organization's mission in Azerbaijan and of Mr. Mahmud al-Sa'id personally.

Government Resolution Liberalizes Foreign Trade

LD1711095295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0711 GMT 17 Nov 95

[By Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU November 17 (ITAR-TASS) — The Azeri Cabinet of Ministers adopted on Thursday a resolution of further liberalization of foreign trade. It envisages major privileges to commercial institutions. According to the resolution, a list of strategically important commodities was reduced from 24 to nine. Now only some oil products, ferrous and nonferrous metals, cotton, tobacco, electricity and precious metal concentrates cannot be exported without a special license of the Azeri Ministry of Foreign Trade.

Georgia

Official Results of Proportional Voting Reported

LD1611213195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2042 GMT 16 Nov 95

[By Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, November 16 (ITAR-TASS) — The Georgian Central Electoral

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Commission on Thursday announced official results in the proportional voting for the new parliament.

The Citizens Union of Georgia, uniting supporters of Eduard Shevardnadze won 23.7 per cent of the votes. The National Democratic Party was the second with 7.9 per cent and 6.8 per cent of votes went to the All-Georgia Revival Union, headed by leader of the Adzharian autonomy Aslan Abashidze.

So, only three out of 54 parties have surpassed the 5-percent barrier and got 150 seats in the 225-seat parliament.

A second round of voting in single-seat districts will name holders of the remaining 75 mandates on Sunday.

CEC Finalizes Election Results, Discusses Ioseliani

LD1611213595 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Georgian Central Electoral Commission [CEC] held its regular meeting today, which was attended by representatives of the Georgian Prosecutor's Office. In compliance with the agenda, the commission considered the arrest of Jaba Ioseliani, candidate for parliament membership. [passage omitted]

Here is an interview with Ivane Kighuradze, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Kighuradze, can the arrest of Jaba Ioseliani at this time be regarded as a violation of law?

[Kighuradze] If we consider the issue from the purely formal point of view, it was a violation of law and the Central Electoral Commission passed a resolution on the issue and sent it to the Prosecutor's Office. In response to this, the Prosecutor's Office has sent us an official letter explaining the motives of the arrest. [passage omitted] When we accuse another party of violating law, we should hear their motives. We heard these motives and thus the incident has been settled. [passage omitted]

[The Central Electoral Commission] will not revert to the issue. We finalized the results of the parliamentary elections today and Jaba Ioseliani is no longer a candidate for parliament membership. [end recording]

CEC Rules Ioseliani's Arrest Unlawful

LD1611175295 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As we have already informed you, the Georgian Central Electoral Commission held its meeting yesterday. At the beginning of the meeting, Zurab Gagnidze [chairman of the Georgian Party of National Ideology], an authorized representative of the Archevnebi society, made a statement saying that a candidate for parliament membership, Jaba Ioseliani, had been arrested. [passage omitted]

The Central Electoral Commission passed a resolution. Here is the text of the resolution:

A resolution by the Georgian Central Electoral Commission on the unlawful arrest of a candidate for parliament membership, Jaba Ioseliani.

The Central Electoral Commission resolves: In accordance with Paragraph 46 of the law of the Republic of Georgia on elections to the Georgian Parliament, the Georgian Central Electoral Commission demands that the Georgian Prosecutor's Office should immediately free an unlawfully arrested candidate for parliament membership, Jaba Ioseliani and, in accordance with Paragraph 194 of the Georgian Criminal Code, should institute a criminal case against the persons who carried out this unlawful arrest.

Chairman of the Commission Ivane Kighuradze.

'No Headway' Reported at Georgian-Abkhazian Talks

LD1611203995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1723 GMT 16 Nov 95

[By Yuriy Kozlov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 16 (ITAR-TASS) — No headway has been made at the Georgian-Abkhazian talks underway in Moscow. The sides have not accepted proposals made by Russian mediators who suggested reaching "a compromise on provisions of a document prepared to be signed. Principal differences over this document remain," said a spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry Mikhail Demurin at a briefing held here today.

Demurin reminded of a report about the situation in Abkhazia submitted to the UN Security Council by the UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. Demurin said that Moscow welcomes an appeal made by the UN Security Council calling on the warring sides to reach tangible progress at the political talks. Demurin expressed hope that representatives of the warring sides would heed the appeal urging them to assume more flexible positions in order to reach mutually acceptable agreements in the interests of establishing lasting peace and stability in this region.

Demurin noted that on Wednesday [15 November], Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov met deputy envoy of the UN Secretary General in Georgia, Liviu Batoi, who intends to join the negotiating process. During the meeting the sides discussed the course the

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current round of the Georgian-Abkhazian talks and exchanged opinions on possible coordinated steps made by UN representatives and Russian mediators to step up the talks.

Abkhaz Authorities Deny Attack on Russian Troops

LD1611141095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1354 GMT 16 Nov 95

[By Tenghiz Pachkoriya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, November 16 (ITAR-TASS) — A Georgian television report said today that a group of Abkhaz militants attacked a Russian peacemaking troop post in the Gali area near the river Yeristskali. Quoting reliable sources, the number of wounded Russian sources was given as several. However, the date of the incident was not mentioned.

Meanwhile, Abkhaz authorities in Sukhumi categorically refuted the Georgian Television report. In response to an ITAR-TASS request in Moscow the report was commented on by vice-president of Abkhazia Valeriy Arshba by telephone. He said "This is a misinformation, nothing of the kind happened".

Abkhaz Leader Calls On UN, Russia To Settle Conflict

LD1611230095 Sukhumi Republic of Abkhazia Radio in Russian 0445 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President of the Republic of Abkhazia Vladislav Ardzinba made a statement on 15 November. The statement says:

First of all, I have to state that comments made by mass media are not fully in line with the essence of the report by Butrus Butrus-Ghali, which emphasizes that only the parties in the conflict can establish peace, that is, a mutual compromise is essential. As for the part of Butrus Butrus-Ghali's report, which speaks of alleged hopes set by the Abkhaz side on changes in the foreign political situation, it is necessary to stress that we do actually hope that the international community and the leadership of the United Nations will proceed from the priority of human rights and the rights of a nation, rather than justify extermination of the whole nation for the sake of territorial integrity. We also do hope that despite certain trends, which took shape in some other regions recently, Russia will play a leading role in settling the Georgian-Abkhaz armed conflict as it has done before and that the settlement will be just, that is, along with the position of the Georgian side, the position of the Abkhaz side will also be taken into consideration.

Shevardnadze Meets NATO Assistant Secretary General

LD1611195395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1618 GMT 16 Nov 95

[By Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, November 16 (ITAR-TASS) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze met today Anthony Cragg, Assistant Secretary-General of NATO, who arrived in Georgia on an official visit on Wednesday [15 November] night.

During a meeting the two discussed problems of the development of cooperation between Georgia and NATO within the framework of the "Partnership for Peace" programme, as well as prospects for the conclusion of an agreement on individual cooperation between Georgia and NATO, a spokesman for the Georgian leader's press service told ITAR-TASS today.

Eduard Shevardnadze drew attention of the NATO representative to the geopolitical importance of the Caucasus and noted that this region deserved more consideration from international peacemaking organizations.

The programme of the visit of the NATO assistant secretary-general which will last till November 18, also includes his meetings with the heads of the Defense Ministry and the Foreign Ministry of Georgia.

According to the press centre of the Foreign Ministry of the republic, Anthony Cragg is expected to hold a news conference on Friday.

Defense Minister, Cragg Discuss NATO

LD1611222795 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1545 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 16 Nov — Georgian Defense Minister Lieutenant General Vardiko Nadibaidze met a NATO delegation headed by Anthony Cragg, the NATO assistant secretary general [for planning and policy], on 16 November.

The meeting focused on the Partnership for Peace program and NATO expansion.

Cragg said that NATO has been a guarantor of world peace and democracy since the day it was founded. Faith in the organization has increased further since the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet system, which brought forward the issue of expanding NATO. He also said that despite the desire of the Eastern European countries to expedite their joining the North Atlantic alliance, the actual program stipulated gradual expansion.

The Georgian defense minister thanked the visitor.

The meeting was attended by Zurab Abashidze, the Georgian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Benelux countries, and Norbert Baas, the German ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Georgia.

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Estonia

Oovel Criticizes Army Chief, Appointment of Loema

WS1611113995 Tallinn BNS in English
1016 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Nov 16, BNS — Estonian Defense Minister Andrus Oovel criticized the army commander in chief for what he called shortcomings in the work on army buildup and said he disagreed with the appointment of Col. Vello Loema for acting chief of staff.

"There are shortcomings on the part of the defense forces' commander in chief in the buildup of state defense," the minister told reporters after arrival from a WEU [West European Union] meeting in Madrid late on Wednesday [15 November].

Oovel said that during the two years that Ltn. Gen. Aleksander Einseln had served as army chief, Estonia should have achieved more than it has in army buildup and in the setting up of an effective military training system.

Commenting on the recent resignation of the army Chief of Staff Col. Arvo Sirel, the minister said that while the chief of staff had to bear responsibility for the irregularities discovered in the central staff, there were other failures for which the commander in chief was to blame.

"The system of state defense needs substantial efforts toward better regulation," Oovel said in remarks at the airport.

He said the country needed to review the preparation of army units and the working regulations in the central staff. "I believe that in this we have achieved less in two years than we should have," Oovel said.

But the minister added that there was "serious cooperation" between the ministry and the commander in chief on issues of state defense. "We have set the dates for presenting the opinions and visions on how to organize state defense," he said.

Oovel said he had discussed the same matters with President Lennart Meri before flying to Madrid on Sunday and that he and the president had come to "concrete ideas and plans" regarding defense development.

Oovel declined comment when asked if he and the president had discussed possible replacement of Einseln.

He added, however, that the defense ministry was opposed to the appointment of Col. Vello Loema as acting chief of staff after the resignation of Arvo Sirel earlier this week. He said the appointment had not been discussed with the ministry.

"The army commander in chief has made that decision alone," the minister said. He added that he will meet Einseln over the issue on Saturday.

According to the law on state defense in peacetime, appointments for army top posts must be made jointly by the commander in chief and the government. The appointment must then be approved by the president.

"A candidate must be found whom the whole government sees as trustworthy," Oovel said.

Oovel and Einseln are unable to meet before Saturday because Einseln flew to Germany on Thursday to lecture at a course for senior NATO officers.

Einseln appointed Col. Vello Loema the acting chief of staff after the resignation of Arvo Sirel on Monday, following a probe which revealed financial and management irregularities in the army central staff.

MP Threatens No-Confidence Motion Against Oovel

WS1611154195 Tallinn BNS in English
1300 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Nov 16, BNS — A leading Estonian opposition MP said on Thursday [16 November] that attacks in the press by the country's defense minister against the army commander in chief could lead to a vote of no-confidence in the minister.

MP Juri Adams of the Pro Patria/National Independence Party faction said a situation when the defense minister and the commander of the defense forces are attacking each other in the press was something that a democratic country cannot allow.

He said fiercely critical remarks made by Defense Minister Andrus Oovel on army Commander in Chief Ltn. Gen. Aleksander Einseln the day before was worst that could happen to the country's security.

"Statements like that can be made only after one has resigned," said Adams, a former minister of justice.

He said that unless steps aimed at calling Oovel to order follow immediately from Prime Minister Tiit Vahi, a no-confidence motion against Oovel would be started.

Adams added that this was the position of the majority of his parliament faction.

Oovel in remarks to the press late on Wednesday said he saw major shortcomings in the work of the army commander in chief.

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The minister said much more should have been achieved in army buildup during the two years that Einseln has been in the top military post.

Meri Delivers Speech at UNESCO Conference

WS1711110095 Tallinn ETA in English 1850 GMT 16 Nov 95

["News Release"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Nov. 16 — Estonian President Lennart Meri delivered a speech to UNESCO 50th anniversary session in the framework of UNESCO 28th general conference in Paris on Thursday [16 November].

Meri said that although Estonia was not among the states that founded UNESCO 50 years ago, Estonia lived among these states. "Fifty years ago we fought behind the iron curtain against what is defined today by an awful word ethic cleansing. Our last arms were Estonian education, science and culture, Estonian songs, Estonian literature and Estonian language and these were attacked fiercely. We received our last lesson. Air can be appreciated when it exists no more. The value of a mother tongue will be noticed when the mother tongue is taken away," Meri said.

"Many of you may not have known that notions culture and autonomy joined in a harmonic marriage first in Estonian Republic in 1925. The small state of Estonia for the first time in world's history introduced with her legislation and state practice cultural autonomy for minorities," Meri said.

Meri said that it caused special concern that every year about 300 living languages became extinct. Small populations cannot create their own states and will be hopelessly unprotected, he said. Meri said that a way out is the communications revolution that enables the small cultures to communicate in a new way. He said that he sees an important programme for the future UNESCO in applying the possibilities of information society to strengthening world's linguistic and cultural diversification, in which he wished all success in the name of Republic of Estonia.

President Upbeat on Relations With Russia

LD1611235395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in Russian 2140 GMT 16 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Kalmykov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 17 November — I am on good, friendly and businesslike terms with Russian president Boris Yeltsin, said Estonian President Lennart Meri. He is in Paris for the UNESCO 50th anniversary celebrations.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Boris Yeltsin the speediest of recoveries, he said. We had a good talk recently in New York, and the news of his illness was a complete surprise for me. The stress and weight of responsibility shouldered by the Russian president is huge, and quite simply his body needs a break.

I think that relations between Russia and Estonia have already passed their most difficult stage, the Estonian president continued. I have just heard the latest news from Tallinn of the breakthrough in the talks on border demarcation. I think both sides have shown the political will for a decision that will satisfy both nations. I view our future relations with optimism and I am sure that Russia will have a friendly partner on its western border. It will always be in our interests to maintain a close cultural and economic relationship with Russia.

We realize that Russia is passing through a difficult phase at present and stands at a crossroads, Lennart Meri said. Fortunately, many trends in the Russian economy are showing positive signs. People are beginning to hope that they will be able to live a normal life in a normal world.

Concerning NATO expansion, the Estonian president recalled that just two years ago Russia was not particularly concerned about this issue. But the mood has shifted since then. However, NATO is also changing, and this too must be taken into account. It now sets itself the goal of creating a stable security in Europe, which means a stable security on Russia's western borders. This means much for a country now facing instability on its southern flanks and is, I think, a positive factor that should in the long term outweigh Russians' purely psychological suspicion of NATO, the Estonian president said.

Lithuania

Newspaper Bombing Called 'Act of Terrorism'

LD1711115795 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ELTA has just reported that shortly before 1200 all staff members were evacuated from the building housing the editorial office of the daily LIETUVOS RYTAS and that the building has now been surrounded by police.

According to unconfirmed reports, new explosive devices had been placed in the building.

When editorial offices of big newspapers are being blown up it is not only an act of terrorism, it is also a political act, according to Gedvidas Vainauskas, editor in chief of LIETUVOS RYTAS, BNS reported.

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Yesterday at 2340 there was an explosion in the center of Vilnius causing considerable damage to the extension of the editorial office, the construction of which had nearly been completed. The explosion took place 10 minutes after the construction workers had left the site, therefore there were no casualties.

The explosion caused such damage that the entire structure is in danger of collapsing. The building of the main editorial office has also been considerably damaged; all the glass partitions were broken. Surrounding buildings were also damaged. Vainauskas estimates the damage to LIETUVOS RYTAS at about 400,000 litai. The extension was not insured.

It is believed that the explosive device was placed inside the extension under construction, the access to which was only through the main building of the editorial office. There is one security officer there, however, because of the presence of the construction workers a stranger may have been able to get into the building with them. The explosives may have been placed on a little balcony on the outside of the extension.

As no members of staff have been hurt and because the computer system is in operation, there is no danger that the publication of the newspaper will be disrupted, Algimantas Budrys, deputy editor in chief, told BNS.

Speaking about possible causes of the explosion, Vainauskas assured BNS that the editorial board had not been part of any illegal machinations. He suggested two possibilities. First, it could be an act of revenge for published reports because LIETUVOS RYTAS has been carrying many reports on crime, and according to the editor in chief, reports of this kind have been particularly numerous this fall. The other possibility suggested by Vainauskas was that some forces would like to destabilize the situation in Lithuania. He did not specify which forces he had in mind.

Such explosions cause harm to the prestige and image of the country, the editor in chief said, and stressed that he was not aware of similar cases in the world when the buildings of the biggest newspapers would be blown up. [passage omitted]

This is the biggest attack on the Lithuanian press since the killing of Vytas Lingys, deputy editor in chief of the daily RESPUBLIKA, two years ago.

The terrorist act against LIETUVOS RYTAS is being discussed this morning at an urgent meeting of the presidium of the Lithuanian Journalists Union. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius has demanded a report on the investigation of this terrorist act against LIETUVOS RYTAS from Romasis Vaitiekunas, minister of interior affairs of Lithuania. The government's spokesman told ELTA that the prime minister gave his assurances to the publishers and the editorial staff of the daily that special attention would be given to the investigation of this terrorist act. The Ministry of Interior Affairs was tasked with informing the prime minister daily on the progress of the investigation.

The prime minister assured the LIETUVOS RYTAS journalists and all the journalists of the country that all efforts will be made to defend the free press against the attacks of criminal structures.

The prime minister informed the Lithuanian president what specific measures have already been taken in the investigation of this criminal act.

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